

Beliefs of Renaissance Humanism

Modeling Themselves on Ancient Past - The Renaissance was a time when the ideas and values of ancient times were reborn:

- a.) Michaelangelo and other artists were inspired by art of ancient Greeks and Romans (a lot of art had religious themes)
- b.) Architecture included features of classical buildings
- c.) Early Renaissance writers focused on translating Roman and Greek work into the vernacular languages and copied their style of writing.
- d.) Civic humanists were interested in classical approaches to government.

Contributing to Society:

- a.) Civic Humanism is the belief that people should educate themselves and strive to make society better.
- b.) Renaissance humanists were intellectual leaders of their communities (philosophers, teachers, public officials, writers, scientists, architects, musicians and artists).
- c.) Some humanists held important positions in government, Church and at Royal Courts

Importance of the Individual:

a.) Humanists believed that every individual should develop their talents and reach their potential. They considered using your gifts a service to God because God gave you those gifts.

b.) Da Vinci's Mona Lisa displays beauty of the human form and interest and value of the natural world. (He used his gifts as an artist to make society better!)

c.) Christine de Pisan wrote that men and women shouldn't be judged on gender, but on their abilities and virtues.

d.) Renaissance thinkers emphasized ideas and values such as individual achievement.

e.) Humanism influenced writers to express their thoughts and emotions.

Importance of Learning:

a.) Humanists believed that education of the "whole person" (mind, body and soul) was very important. They also believed that education should be available to all people and that education would improve society.

b.) Reading and discussing ancient writers became a very popular pastime for wealthy and upper class members of society.

c.) Humanists believed that ancient works should be available to all (many spent a lot of time translating these into the vernacular).