THE EARLY RENAISSANCE
1400-1494
Introduction

• Began in Italy and spread throughout Europe

• Was a cultural \textit{rebirth} (\textit{Renaissance} translated)

• Saw great advancements in the arts and learning.
Geo-politics

• Northern Italian city-states were affluent as commercial centers and finished woolen manufacturers
• By 1500 the affluence would diminish.
• City-states were led by autocratic signori who came from ruling families (Oligarchies)
  – Venice (the exception- it had ruling bodies)
  – Milan (Francesco I Sforza)
  – Naples (Alfonso I [of Aragon & Barcelona])
  – Florence (Medicis)
  – Papal States (Vatican, papacy returned to Rome from Avignon)
FLORENCE

- Cultural leader of the Renaissance
- Went from republic to oligarchy to autocracy
- Decline began with death of Lorenzo de Medici
  - Invasion by France under Charles VIII
  - Iconoclastic crusade for republicanism under Dominican monk Fra Savoranola
Political changes

• Wars were fought by mercenaries (*condottieri*)
• Technology improved weapons
  – Mortars
  – Bombards
• Venice had over 3300 ships in its fleet
• Diplomacy developed as a peaceful alternative to battle
NOTABLE ARTISTS

• Sculptors
  – Donatello (*David*, *Gattamelata*, *Feast of Herod*)
  – Lorenzo Ghiberti (*The Annunciation*, *The Story of Cain & Abel*)

• Painters
  – Masaccio (*The Holy Trinity*, *The Tribute Money*)
  – Fra Angelico (*Annunciation*)
  – Pierro della Francesca (*The Flagellation*)
  – Sandro Botticelli (*Primavera*, *The Birth of Venus*)

• Architects
  – Filippo Brunelleschi
  – Leone Battista Alberti
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Donatello’s **David**

Featuring contrapposto stance
Gattamelata
by Donatello
The Feast of Herod
North Baptistery Doors in Florence by Ghiberti
The Annunciation
by Ghiberti

A panel from the North doors of the Baptistery in Florence
THE HOLY TRINITY
Masaccio
THE TRIBUTE MONEY
Masaccio
Matthew 17:24-27 (New International Version)
The Temple Tax
24 After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax came to Peter and asked, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax[a]?" 25 "Yes, he does," he replied.

    When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. "What do you think, Simon?" he asked. "From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes—from their own sons or from others?"
26 "From others," Peter answered.
    "Then the sons are exempt," Jesus said to him. 27 "But so that we may not offend them, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours."
THE TRIBUTE MONEY
Masaccio
THE TRIBUTE MONEY

Group detail
THE TRIBUTE MONEY

Duo detail
The Annunciation by Fra Angelico
The Flagellation by Pierro della Francesca
THE BIRTH OF VENUS by Sandro Botticelli
Cathedral Dome in Florence

designed by Filippo Brunelleschi

completed in 1436
Exterior of PAZZI CHAPEL, Basilica di Santa Croce.
PAZZI CHAPEL interior
MALATESTA TEMPLE in Rimini, Italy

Designed by Leone Alberti
DORIC

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CORINTHIAN
• Leonardo da Vinci – the true Renaissance Man
  – Painter (*The Virgin of the Rocks*)
  – Architect
  – Inventor
  – Engineer
  – Scientist (strict empiricist)
VIRGIN OF THE ROCKS
by
Leonardo da Vinci
Renaissance Music

• Principal works were
  – Latin masses
  – Motets for multiple voices w/ words of sacred text
  – Chansons (secular songs with French texts)
    • French ballade (using two voices)
    • Italian madrigal (designed for 6 voices)

• Performed a capella (w/o instruments)

• Composers
  – John Dunstable (England)
  – Josquin des Prez (Burgundy)- sounds matched words, using major & minor scales with related harmonies