Social Studies Vocabulary – The Renaissance

1. Renaissance – a cultural movement, beginning in Italy and spreading throughout Europe, from the 14th to the 17th century
2. Florence – a city in central Italy, on the Arno River: capital of the former grand duchy of Tuscany; the city where the Renaissance began
3. Medici – important ruling family of Florence; patron of the arts and literature
4. Leonardo da Vinci –Italian painter, 1452–1519, sculptor, architect, musician, engineer, mathematician, and scientist
5. Marco Polo – merchant from Venice who traveled to China and met with Mongol ruler Kublai Khan in the 1270s, then wrote a book about his travels
6. Johannes Gutenberg – German goldsmith who built a moveable type printing press in the 1450s, making books quicker and cheaper to print, spreading ideas more quickly
7. William Shakespeare – English playwright, 1564 – 1616, who wrote tragedies, comedies, and historical plays
8. Humanism – any system or mode of thought or action in which human interests, values, and dignity predominate
9. scholarship – learning; knowledge acquired by study; the academic attainments of a scholar
10. Botticelli – Italian painter, born in Florence, famous for *Birth of Venus* and *Primavera*

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1. Michelangelo – Italian sculptor, painter of the Sistine Chapel, architect, and poet
2. Machiavelli – Italian statesman, political philosopher, and author
3. Sir Thomas More – English writer on religious subjects
4. Raphael – prolific Italian painter, most famous for *The School of Athens* in the Vatican
5. aesthetic – pertaining to a sense of the beautiful or to the science of aesthetics
6. Filippo Brunelleschi – Italian architect; engineered the dome of Florence Cathedral
7. St. Peter's Basilica – a Late Renaissance church located within the Vatican City, the rebuilding of which was an architectural feat, combining the skills of Bramante, Michelangelo, Raphael, Sangallo and Maderno
8. scientific method – a method of research in which a problem is identified, relevant data are gathered, a hypothesis is formulated from these data, and the hypothesis is empirically tested; developed during the Renaissance
9. Erasmus – Dutch humanist, scholar, theologian, and writer
10. sculpture – the art of carving, modeling, welding, or otherwise producing figurative or abstract works of art in three dimensions
11. architecture – the profession of designing buildings, open areas, communities, and other artificial constructions and environments, usually with some regard to aesthetic effect
12. secular – relating to earthly life rather than to religion or spiritual matters
13. Martin Luther – young monk who challenged the Roman Catholic Church, was upset by the Church’s sale of indulgences, and argued that the Pope could not decide what a person had to do to get into heaven; this led to the Reformation, a Christian movement which became known as Protestantism, which led to many new and different Christian denominations
14. New World – the name given by Europeans to the Americas, which were unknown in Europe before the voyages of Christopher Columbus
15. subject – a person under the rule of a monarch
16. patron – a wealthy or influential supporter of an artist or writer
17. Ferdinand Magellan – explorer who led the first expedition to circumnavigate the globe; he was killed in the Philippines, but his sailors made it home to Spain
18. Columbian Exchange – new exchange of goods, technology, ideas, people, and disease which happened after Columbus sailed to the Americas
19. Age of Enlightenment – a period during the 1700s in which educated Europeans came to believe that scientific thinking and reason was a “light” which revealed error and showed the way to truth
20. Nicolaus Copernicus – Polish mathematician who, in 1543, wrote a book stating his theory that the Sun (not the Earth) was the center of the solar system

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1. Isaac Newton – English mathematician who developed calculus, discovered white light is made of color, and in 1687, published his law (well-tested theory) of gravitation
2. John Locke – English thinker in the late 1600s who believed that the purpose of government is to protect people’s rights to life, liberty, and property
3. Baron Montesquieu -- French thinker in the 1700s who argued that England’s government was the best because it separated the government’s powers into three equal branches: executive, legislative, and judicial
4. Mary Wollstonecraft – English writer who wrote *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, in 1792, claiming that all humans have reason, so women should have the same rights as men
5. Thirteen Colonies – by the early 1700s, English settlers had sailed to the Atlantic Coast of North America in order to make money and to find religious and political freedom, creating Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia