CHAPTER 4: The Exchange of Ideas

Something to think about…
Worldview Inquiry: How did the Renaissance spark the growth and exchange of ideas across Europe?

What is censorship and freedom of expression?
- Censorship means that someone else has sat down and decided WHAT I can view / read / obtain.
  Censorship is the suppression of speech or deletion of communicative material which may be considered objectionable, harmful, sensitive, or inconvenient to the government or media organizations as determined by a censor.
  censor - ban: forbid the public distribution of (a movie or a newspaper)

- Freedom of speech is the freedom to speak without censorship and/or limitation. The synonymous term freedom of expression is sometimes used to indicate not only freedom of verbal speech but any act of seeking, receiving and imparting information or ideas, regardless of the medium used. In practice, the right to freedom of speech is not absolute in any country and the right is commonly subject to limitations, such as on "hate speech".

SECTION #1: Science: A New Way of Seeing
NOTES:
- At the beginning of the renaissance, if people wanted to learn about the sciences they had to read texts from Classical or Islamic Civilizations. Even so, they were not encouraged to ask questions, study the natural world, or experiment.

- The process of making observations, experimenting, and drawing conclusions is known as the scientific method. This method led to many discoveries.

- For example, Galileo built off the ideas of others such as Copernicus and Kepler, and studied the sky using telescopes he had built to confirm that the earth revolved around the sun and not the other way around, which was previously thought.

- This went against the teachings and beliefs of the Catholic Church, and they forced Galileo to give up his views.

- Traditional and herbal remedies played a large role in medicine and continue to do so, but older practices of bleeding and using leeches were replaced by new treatments reflecting an accurate knowledge of anatomy.
This was aided by the mathematic concept of **perspective** which was rediscovered by Brunelleschi. Mathematics also contributed to the **economy** as trade increased, and was used as a **tool** for understanding the universe.

1) **Read** page 80 and take notes using the chart below.

   a. **View on Science:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Beginning of Renaissance</strong></th>
<th><strong>Humanists</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>- you would read books by scholars from Classical or Islamic civilizations. But, you were not encouraged to ask questions, study anything in the natural world, or do any hands-on experimenting.</td>
<td>- thinkers dramatically expanded the range of texts they read. The new importance that humanism placed on human beings and their experiences encouraged people to question and experiment.</td>
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b. What is the **Scientific Method**? What were some of the most important advances?

   - The process of making observations, experimenting, and drawing conclusions based on evidence
   - astronomy, medicine and mathematics

c. Look at figure 4-3. The scientific method is still used today. Copy the diagram out. Why do you think it is so effective?

   - people make careful observations
   - people adjust their hypothesis in light of their results
   - people examine whether their conclusions are warranted by their observations (concern for validity – do the observations indicate what I think they indicate?)
   - people use careful procedures (concern for reliability – have I conducted my work in such a way that another scientist can repeat the experiment and get the same results?)

2) **Read** page 81. Albert Einstein said in 1941: Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind. Einstein’s comment suggests that science and religion need each other, that they are equal partners.

   How is this view different from the view during Galileo’s time?

   - Church leaders in Galileo’s time considered scientific knowledge to be threat to the Church’s teaching and authority. Today, some leaders in both science and religion are working and thinking in the spirit of Einstein’s comment

3) **Read** pages 82-83.

   a. What idea in these pages did you find the most surprising? Why?
b. Which idea do you think would have been the hardest for people to accept?

4) Read page 85, *Voices: Scientific Progress*. Why do you think it is sometimes difficult for people to accept new ideas in science and medicine?
- not only in science and medicine, but in all areas of daily life, humans find it difficult to accept new explanations when the old explanations have worked fine up until now
- humans (and many other species) form habits
- brain research now shows a physiological basis for the difficulty people sometimes have accepting new ideas: the human brain actually forms thicker neural pathways for those memories, facts, skills and words that we call upon most often. It is a challenge for people to lay down new neural pathways.
SECTION #2: Political and Religious Leadership

NOTES:

- Struggles for power within the city-states led to conflict that in turn interfered with trade. People came to believe that strong leadership was the solution because it would lead to peace and stability.

- Isabella D Este was married into leadership. She became the unofficial Duke of Mantua. She was an unusual leader in her time because of the fact that she was a women.

- Machiavelli was a scientific ruler. He believed in conquering and maintaining the state at all cost, implying that the end justifies the means.

- At the beginning of the renaissance, the Catholic church was considered to be the natural leader in all areas of society. People began to complain that the church was behaving inappropriately.

- Savonarola was one such person who wanted to fight corruption in the church. He held a bonfire of the vanities in order to rid people of the things that took their attention away from God. His criticisms were unsuccessful, and he was tried for heresy and eventually executed.

- Martin Luther was a German monk who also worked to fight corruption in the church. He studied the bible for himself and thought that it, not the church should be the spiritual guide to the people. He challenged the church by nailing the 95 Theses to the church door. Unlike Galileo, he was asked to give up his ideas, and he was forced into hiding.

- Luther broke away from the Catholic Church, which led to the new church, and the formation of the Lutheran church. He also translated the bible into German and published it.

- The Catholic Church cleaned up the corruption in clergy and better educated it’s priests. A new focus on converting was established to rebuild the church, and Ignatius Loyola played a large role in this, what would become known as the Catholic Counter-Reformation.

1) List qualities that you look for in a good leader.
   - fairness
   - strong
   - confident
   - proactive
   - committed
2) What role do leaders play in changing or maintaining worldview?
- Sometimes a leader’s worldview and the actions that he or she takes based on that worldview can influence the worldview of the others, specifically the people that the leader is responsible for leading.

3) **Read** page 89 – 90 and list the ideas that you agree with (the good) and the ones you disagree with (the bad).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Machiavelli the Good</th>
<th>Machiavelli the Bad</th>
</tr>
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4) **Look** at Exploring Sources on page 89 and answer the following questions:

a. What do you think of Machiavelli’s ideas about what people are like? About how rulers sometimes need to behave?
   - manipulative
   - understands human beings and leadership perfectly
   - ruthless
   - immoral
   - thinks at a superior level compared to ordinary people
   - has attributed too much importance to the state’s survival

   - If one accepts that the state is more important than the individual, then Machiavelli might be correct in his teaching. The last citation indicates that Machiavelli only falls back on means/ends reasoning when there is no “resource to justice” – perhaps he is not as evil as many interpret him to be.

b. Compare Machiavelli’s ideas about leadership with those of Isabella D’Este. Which do you think would be more effective? Explain your thinking.
   - Her approach to leadership seems to rely much more on moral authority and the consent or goodwill of the ruled.
   - “Effective” needs definition – if it means simply getting the job done, then the manipulation and lying prescribed by Machiavelli may be effective. If “effective” implies getting the job and enjoying the support of one’s subjects, then D’Este’s approach may be more effective.
5) **Read** pages 92-95 and make notes under each heading.

**Changing Leadership in the Church**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Savonarola</th>
<th>Martin Luther</th>
<th>The Protestant Reformation</th>
<th>The Catholic Counter-Reformation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

6) What is “Catholic Counter-Reformation?
- it implies that the actions taken by the Catholic Church were entirely in response to the Protestant Reformation.

7) **Read** page 95, *Exploring Sources.*
Many Protestant centres grew up throughout France. How do you think this might have been received by the country’s Catholic rulers?
*This would have been perceived as a threat to the wealth and power of the Catholic Church, and disrespectful to the Catholic crown.*
8) **Read** page 96, *Fast Forward: Religious Freedom*. Answer the following questions:

a. Canada is a pluralistic and multicultural society. How does this influence our attitude toward religious tolerance?
   - negatively, cultural plurality has caused some to become nostalgic for an English, Protestant Canada (that never existed in reality) resulting in attitudes ranging from fear, through intolerance and a desire to assimilate anyone who is different, to calls for forced emigration (return to countries of origin)
   - positively, cultural plurality has caused some to learn about people different from themselves, resulting in attitudes ranging from tolerance, through respect, and even to celebration of the person who is different

b. What two perspectives came into conflict in this situation?
   - that all expressions of religious conviction must be allowed in the public space
   - that limits may be placed on expressions of religious faith if “reasonable” grounds (such as public protection) can be shown
SECTION #3: The Spread of Ideas

NOTES:

■ We live in an information age, but the Renaissance could also be described this way. Wealthy merchants played an important part in the spread of ideas. Many humanist thinkers taught at Italian universities, and traveled to numerous places to share their ideas with others. They became very famous, and kings and Queens were eager to attract them.

■ Until a German named Gutenberg invented the printing press, most of the population remained illiterate. Only the very wealthy could afford to buy books to educate themselves with.

■ The printing press continues to play a role in disseminates information today, but it has been joined by other methods such as the internet.

1) Brainstorm ways that ideas and knowledge are spread in today’s society.
   - media, news, internet, word of mouth, books.
   - consider how ideas were spread before we had all of the communication technology that exists today.
   - discuss factors that would have influenced the spread of ideas during the Renaissance.

2) Do you think libraries play an important role in the exchange of ideas today? Explain.
   - libraries are working hard to demonstrate their relevance at a time when a surplus of information seems available to many people. They attempt to adapt by doing some of the following:
     - making on-line resources available to people who physically visit a library (eg. public internet and e-mail access)
     - making their own catalogues and other resources available on-line
     - they continue to argue for open access to information
     - they continue to purchase books for public use, a way of exchanging information still preferred by many people, even some who are quite adept at computer use

3) Consider a world without books. What would be the advantages and disadvantages?
   Advantage:
   - many people would be illiterate.
4) **Read** pages 98-100 and name the inventor of the printing press, then identify 3 changes that resulted from the development of the printing press.

Inventor of the printing press:
- Johannes Gutenberg

3 Changes that resulted from the development:
- produce thousands of books in the time it had once taken to make a single copy
- made money
- more languages than in just Latin eg. German

5) **Look** at page 100, *Exploring Sources: The Spread of Literacy*. Answer the following questions:

a. How would printing allow thinkers like Luther and Galileo to spread their ideas more quickly?
- low-cost, mass printing allowed widespread dissemination of ideas.

b. How would printing and writing books in the languages that people spoke help to spread ideas?
- the use of vernacular language instead of Latin allowed many more people to read for themselves

c. What effect do you think this would have on the number of people who were illiterate?
- literacy did increase, but mostly through the efforts of churches to found schools. Most governments did not begin to view education and literacy as their concern until the 1800s.

6) **Read** page 101, *Zoom In: Michel de Montaigne*.

a. According to de Montaigne, what are the effect(s) of ignorance?
- intolerance of others
- having poor common sense
- extreme behaviours
- being judgmental toward others
- cruelty to others

b. Do you agree with his analysis?
- students will likely find some truth in Montaigne’s analysis, but many may find the statements to be extreme

b. Do you think exploring worldviews might result in behaviour that is less judgmental or cruel? Why or why not?
- students should be able to see that learning more about a subject opens the mind to understanding, reduces reliance on stereotypes, and reveals areas of commonality between people
5) The Renaissance worldview encouraged making direct observations and experimenting to learn about the world. What discoveries were made as a result of this attitude? Use the chart below to organize your ideas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Innovator</th>
<th>Discovery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Astronomy</td>
<td>Copernicus</td>
<td>- heliocentric solar system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kepler</td>
<td>- elliptical, not circular orbits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Galileo</td>
<td>- heliocentric solar system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>Vesalius</td>
<td>- anatomy and dissection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Brunelleschi</td>
<td>- perspective</td>
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