

Station A: Advances in Architecture and Engineering

The Site: You are at the cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore.

1. Read Section 28.3 in *History Alive! The Medieval World and Beyond*. Answer Questions 1 and 2 in Reading Notes 28 for that section.
2. Read the following paragraph to learn why you are here.

When Brunelleschi decided to become an architect, he went to Rome. There he studied the proportions of ancient ruins and learned the mathematics of construction. When he returned to Florence, he constructed a dome for Florence's cathedral that was really two domes, one built inside the other, to give the massive structure support and strength.

3. Complete these tasks:
 - a. Read the text and study the image and the diagram of Brunelleschi's dome on Placard 28A.
 - b. Working with another pair, make a "human dome." Position yourselves as shown below. Stand on the vertices (points) of the octagon on the floor.
 - c. Have one person raise the beach ball toward the middle of the group. Everyone should lean in and place their hands on the ball as shown. Hold this position for 20 to 30 seconds. Make sure you are all standing far enough apart that you must lean in to hold the ball in place. Step off the tape if necessary to accomplish this. Don't stand so far apart that you could lose your balance.
4. Complete the remaining Reading Notes for Section 28.3, Question 3.



Station B: Advances in Painting

The Site: You are at the Palazzo Medici, where the Medici family liked to spend evenings with the best artists of Florence.

1. Read Section 28.4 in *History Alive! The Medieval World and Beyond*. Answer Questions 1 and 2 in Reading Notes 28 for that section.

2. Read the information below to learn why you are here:

The Medici were patrons of many leading Renaissance artists. Music you might hear is the type that was played when the Medici hosted artistic gatherings at their palazzo. It might have been performed on a lute, a stringed instrument like a guitar. When artists gathered at the Palazzo Medici, they exchanged ideas about the latest techniques. One of the painting techniques they discussed was perspective. Perspective is a technique used to create a realistic relationship between the figures and the background of a painting.

3. With your partner, complete these tasks:
 - a. Read the following information about perspective.
 - Closer objects appear larger. Objects farther away appear smaller.
 - Distant objects are painted to look blurry and unfinished.
 - Objects appear to change when you look at them from different points of view. If you look straight at an object, it might appear flat. From a different angle, you can see that it has depth and width.
 - Colors that are pale or have a blue tone make objects appear to be farther away.
 - The viewer's eyes are drawn to a point in the distance of the painting. This point, called the vanishing point, is where two imaginary parallel lines appear to come together in the distance.
 - b. Carefully examine Placard 28B, Botticelli's painting *Adoration of the Magi*. With your partner, try to find at least three examples of the perspective techniques you read about.
4. Complete the remaining Reading Notes for Section 28.4, Question 3.

Station C: Advances in Sculpture

The Site: You are at the Piazza della Signoria, a huge plaza in front of the Palazzo Vecchio.

1. Read Section 28.5 in *History Alive! The Medieval World and Beyond*. Answer Questions 1 and 2 in Reading Notes 28 for that section.

2. Read this paragraph to learn why you are here:

Michelangelo steadily chiseled away at a giant, misshapen block of marble for more than two years before he completed his *David* in 1504. Florentine leaders immediately recognized the tremendous artistic value of the sculpture. When they placed *David* on a pedestal and installed the enormous sculpture in the plaza of the city hall, the people of Florence celebrated with dancing and parades. *David* quickly established Michelangelo as the greatest sculptor in all of Italy.

3. Complete this task: Examine Placard 28C carefully. Then use clay and the tools your teacher has provided to sculpt an eye. Do your best to make it look like one of the eyes of Michelangelo's *David*.
4. Complete the remaining Reading Notes for Section 28.5, Question 3.
5. Return the clay to the condition in which you found it.

Station D: Advances in Literature

The Site: You are at the Casa di Dante, the house of Dante Alighieri, one of Florence's most celebrated writers.

1. Read Section 28.6 in *History Alive! The Medieval World and Beyond*. Then answer Questions 1 and 2 in Reading Notes 28 for that section.
2. Read the paragraph below to learn why you are here:

Dante wrote his poem *The Divine Comedy* in the vernacular, or native speech, of Italy. Before his poem was published, people had thought that using the vernacular was not appropriate for fine writing. But when the poem was highly praised, the language Dante used became the language of the Italian Renaissance. It became the language used for both everyday speech and fine writing. *The Divine Comedy* has three parts: *Inferno*, *Purgatorio*, and *Paradiso*. Each part describes a stage of an imaginary journey through the afterlife.

3. With your partner, examine Placard 28D. Then read the following descriptions and try to identify which image on the placard illustrates each place along Dante's imaginary journey through the afterlife.

Inferno The first part of *The Divine Comedy* is called *Inferno*. Virgil, a poet of ancient Rome, acts as Dante's guide during this journey through the afterlife. Dante sees many lonely souls; among them are a number of important Florentines. He gives a description of their sins and the punishments they have received.

Purgatorio The second part of *The Divine Comedy* is called *Purgatorio*. Virgil continues to lead Dante through the afterlife. In *Purgatorio*, Dante describes how people pay for their sins.

Paradiso The third part of *The Divine Comedy* is called *Paradiso*. Dante's guide is now Beatrice, a woman Dante loved deeply in real life, but who died at an early age. In *Paradiso*, Dante describes a vision of heaven, which in several religions is a place of happy eternal life with God.

4. Complete the remaining Reading Notes for Section 28.6, Question 3.

Station E: Advances in Science and Mathematics

The Site: You are at Orsanmichele (or-SAHN-mee-shel), a church in Florence where Leonardo da Vinci likely worked.

1. Read Section 28.7 in *History Alive! The Medieval World and Beyond*. Answer Questions 1 and 2 in Reading Notes 28 for that section.

2. Read this paragraph to learn why you are here:

Leonardo is said to have painted in the church of Orsanmichele. But his skills and interests took him all over Florence and to other cities in Italy. Throughout his life, Leonardo kept detailed notes on and complex drawings of hundreds of subjects. He sketched his ideas for such inventions as flying machines and an armored car. Most of the 4,200 pages of notes he kept were written in reverse script, or backward, so that they could only be read easily if held up to a mirror. Some historians think Leonardo did this to prevent people from easily stealing his ideas.

3. Complete these tasks.
 - a. Study the four drawings from Leonardo's notebooks on Placard 28E.
 - b. Try to figure out what each drawing represents. Discuss your ideas with your partner.
 - c. Use the mirror to read the *List of Drawings from Leonardo's Notebooks*. Use the information you reveal to make your final guesses.
4. Complete the remaining Reading Notes for Section 28.7, Question 3.

Station F: Florentine Politics

The Site: You are at the Palazzo Vecchio, the city hall in Florence where government leaders met.

1. Read Section 28.8 in *History Alive! The Medieval World and Beyond*. Answer Questions 1 and 2 in Reading Notes 28 for that section.

2. Read this paragraph to learn why you are here:

Niccolò Machiavelli served in the government of Florence during a time of invasions and wars with other city-states. After he lost his government job, Machiavelli used his experience in politics to write *The Prince*. In this book, he says that to be successful, a ruler must be willing to be feared rather than loved. Machiavelli suggests that it is acceptable for a ruler to use force to stay in power and to bring peace to the city-state.

3. With your partner, complete these tasks:
 - a. Read the three quotations from *The Prince* by Machiavelli on Placard 28F.
 - b. Each of you take a ballot your teacher has provided. Vote for the statement you most agree with. Place the ballot in the basket or box.
4. Complete the remaining Reading Notes for Section 28.8, Question 3.

Station G: Florentine Commerce and Trade

The Site: You are at the Mercato Nuovo, or the New Market, in Florence.

1. Read Section 28.9 in *History Alive! The Medieval World and Beyond*. Answer Questions 1 and 2 in Reading Notes 28 for that section.
2. Read this paragraph to learn why you are here:

The Mercato Nuovo was one of the largest financial marketplaces in Europe. People came here to buy and sell such precious items as silk, wool, and gold. Wealthy people also traveled from all over Europe to get loans or to convert their money to florins at the market's banks.

3. Complete these tasks:
 - a. Carefully read the *Catalog of Florentine Goods* on Placard 28G.
 - b. You have 15 florins. Decide what you will purchase with your florins.
4. Complete the remaining Reading Notes for Section 28.9, Question 3.