15th Century Renaissance Art to Rococo
15\textsuperscript{th} Century Art-The beginnings

- The modern methods of art today began in the 15\textsuperscript{th} century.
- The idea of painting on wooden panels, developed into painting on easels.
  - Why would this be a significant change in the way artists painted?
• A new technique was introduced during the early Renaissance: oil-glaze technique.
• How is this different from the Middle Age paintings? (what did they use to paint with)
• Development of the printmaking by using woodcuts and engravings.
  – Woodcuts: cutting a design into a block of wood and printing the design
  – Engraving: using a stylus to draw into a surface, where the ink settles, and printing from that surface.
Early woodcuts had very little shading as the artists were afraid of parts being cut off or removed. (thick outlines and minimal shading)

Later, as techniques developed, so did the ability to shade and add form to the subject of the woodcuts.
• Among the first to use oil painting was Jan Van Eyck
• Instead of mixing ground pigments with water, they were mixed with oil. This allowed the image to dry much slower than the traditional tempera or fresco painting.
• This method of painting allowed artists to paint details, creating shading; which in turn created the realism artists were beginning to work towards.
• Also created during this time was the invention of the printing press.
  – Why was this a major difference from the medieval period?
• Hieronymus Bosch was the first person to create religious paintings with “other” or creative creatures.
• This style would later be called Surrealism.
Renaissance Art

• During this time art was a “re-discovery” of ancient Rome and Greek Art.
• Reverting back to humanistic ideas and the desire to create reality.
• Renaissance is a French word that means “re-birth” or “re-awakening”
• The two main forms of art during this time was painting and sculpture.
• Though the artwork was still religious in nature, they were now painted in real landscape scenes instead of ones in gold.
• Portraits were now more popular, portraying people as individuals, not just symbolic symbols or painted for the churches.

• Does this remind you of the Roman sculptures? What would the common theme be?
Italian Renaissance

• Artists and patrons were in more control of how they painted, the church had less control.
• Early Renaissance paintings were concerned with the space and the effect of color and light in painting.
• Some of the more known early artists were Giotto, Duccio, Masaccio, Francesca, Boticelli and Ghiberti.
Giotto

*The Mourning of Christ*

*Fresco*

c. 1305

Giotto was a transitional artist, working with traditional style painting techniques, but starting to get away from the traditional medieval styles—trying to emphasize the natural instead of just the spiritual.
Ghiberti and Brunelleschi: A first competitive contest

• The Commission for the Doors
  In 1401, the cloth merchant's guild decided to commission a second set of doors for the Florence Baptistery.

• The major guilds of Florence had considerable power and were often responsible for maintaining and developing the city's major public buildings - the cloth merchant's guild was the most powerful among the guilds.

• One set of doors had already been created by Andrea Pisano and were completed in 1360. Two panels survive from the competition for the second set, Brunelleschi's entry and Ghiberti's entry. Ghiberti won by a narrow margin.
Gates of Paradise by Ghiberti
Bronze with gilding

Detail of the door: The story of Joseph
Donatello • “David” bronze sculpture
Brunelleschi

• The most famous architect of his time:
• Contributed with the invention of linear perspective as we know it today.
Masaccio

• “The Holy Trinity”: uses linear perspective to create a realistic effect:
  
  • Read over the information on the linked page and then watch the video on the Holy Trinity

Early Examples of Linear Perspective
Boticelli- “The Birth of Venus”

Allegory
• Many artists used foreshortening to create an awkward viewing angle.

Artist: Andrea Mantegna
Raphael

• Used the technique of a *tondo*-a circular picture with equidistance from the center of the picture.

Harmony and balance are found in Raphael's ability to stabilize the circular form of the painting with a triangular arrangement of the figures and the strong horizontal line behind them, composed of the river and trees. The Virgin's sandal acts as a break preventing the tondo (circle) from rolling.
The School of Athens
1510-11
Fresco
Vatican, Stanza della Segnatura, Rome

Philosophers:
Aristotle and Plato
Sistine Chapel

1509-12

Interior view

26. Artist who is contributed with painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, **Michelangelo.** He was also a great sculptor: Examples and descriptions
The Last Judgment
Fresco
Sistine Chapel Ceiling
-the occasional dark spots are area where restoration has not taken place- Can you tell which parts have been restored and which have not?
David

c. 1501-1504
Marble
Height 410 cm (13 1/2 ft)
Accademia delle Belle Arti, Florence
Leonardo da Vinci

• 1452-1519
• Sculptor, an architect, man of science, mathematician, inventor
• Explored everything and excelled in nearly all of his ventures
• A true Renaissance man- one who possess the ability to do more than one profession and do each profession well.
• During this time, we have Christopher Columbus sailing across the ocean blue.
Leonardo da Vinci

**Mona Lisa**
1503-1506
Oil on wood
77 x 53 cm (30 x 20 7/8 in.)
Louvre, Paris
The Last Supper
(after cleaning)
1498, Tempera on plaster, 460 x 880 cm (15 x 29 ft.)
Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie (Refectory), Milan
NORTHERN RENAISSANCE

• The themes are similar to Italy, but the painting of the religious subjects are different.

• More mythological, more passionate in tone color, and set in dark environments instead of the Mediterranean.

• During this time we have the Protestant Reformation in central Europe.

Artists of this time include: Hans Holbein, Albrecht Durer and Pieter Brueghel.

• The most well-known printmakers, who created prints from biblical themes was Albrecht Durer. German artist
Albrecht Durer

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse
1498, Woodcut, 39 x 28 cm

Also created many other prints, like the one below.

Knight, Death and Devil
1513
Engraving
24 x 19 cm

How are the pictures similar in style and how are they different?
Hans Holbein the Younger painted portraits of leading figures of the era’s religious debates:

Example:

The Ambassadors
1533

Anamorphic skull

The most notable and famous of Holbein's symbols in the work, however, is the distorted skull which is placed in the bottom center of the composition. The skull, rendered in anamorphic perspective, another invention of the Early Renaissance, is meant to be a visual puzzle as the viewer must approach the painting nearly from the side to see the form morph into an accurate rendering of a human skull.
Pieter Brueghel the Elder, a Northern Renaissance artist, was the first to paint landscapes of people enjoying everyday life. His landscapes sometimes had dreamlike qualities. Example:

The Harvesters
1565
Oil on wood
46 1/2 x 63 1/4 in. (118.1 x 160.7 cm)
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
Peasants Wedding

Oil on wood
114 x 164 cm (45 x 64 1/2 in.)
Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna
Because of wars, famine and epidemics, death was a frequent visitor in the Middle Age and Renaissance.

- One popular theme was the “Dance of Death” in both literature and art. It showed death, represented by a skeleton, appearing to people. The theme reached a climax during the Northern Renaissance.
- This artist, **Hans Holbein**, designed a series of woodcut prints depicting the Dance of Death. [woodcut examples]

★ Women were now beginning to earn a name and fame for themselves: sculptor: Luisa Roldan, Italian painters: Lavinia Fontana, Sofonisba Anguissola, and Artemisia Gentileschi.
Sofonisba Anguissola (1532-1625)

- Sofonisba was one of the first women to gain an international reputation as a painter. She studied under Campi until he moved away and this established a precedent of encouraging male painters to take on female students. Michelangelo even sent her some drawings, which she copied and sent back to him for criticism.
- She was a prolific painter: more than 30 signed pictures survived from her years in Cremona, with a total of about 50 works that have been securely attributed to her.
- Late in her life she was visited by a young painter Anthony van Dyck. A drawing of her appears in his sketchbooks, along with excerpts of the advice she gave him about painting. Nevertheless it is clear that she was an innovative portraitist, whose international stature inspired many young women to become painters.

http://www.mystudios.com/women/abcde/sofonisba_self.html

Self Portrait
1554
oil on canvas
Kunsthistorisches, Vienna
Baroque and Rocco

• **BAROQUE (17th century)**
  
  • Mannerism was a transitional development between the Renaissance and Baroque period.
  
  • 36. The Baroque style was *flamboyant* and *ornamental* as compared to the Renaissance stability and formality. The artists used *contrapposto* which means balanced on one foot rather than on both. Which was a technique borrowed from the Greeks.
  
  • 37. Movement and action were introduced to create *dramatic* emotions.
38. The art was characterized by the artists interest in **light** and **shadow**.

The tradition of painting religious subjects, mythological events, and portraits; adding landscapes, still lifes, and genre subjects.

39. One of the greatest artists of this time was **Peter Paul Rubens**. His work was filled with action, drama and emotion. Artwork and description:

![Daniel in the Lions Den](image-url)
40. Another artist of this time was Caravaggio. He used a **spotlight** technique, while picking out realistic details, giving the appearance of three dimensions while casting parts of a picture into mysterious shadows. This style of art was called **chiaroscuro**.

The Conversion of St. Paul  
1600-1601
41. Another artist of this time is Georges de la Tour. His approach was to illuminate a scene with concentrated, single light source, such as a candle or a lamp. This produced very dramatic lighting that emphasized details; such as wrinkles and folds of cloth.

The Penitent Magdalena
1638-43
Artemisia Gentileschi

Was a follower of Caravaggio, using intense light source to emphasis the scene.

She made her first well-known work at the age of 17: *Susanna and the Elders*. Some think that Artemisia had been harassed just like Susanna, and that she used that experience in the painting.

Being a girl she was not accepted into any painting academy. Her father then had a colleague give her further lessons. This Agostino Tassi not only taught her painting but raped her as well. When that became public Tassi was sent to jail for a year.

Artemisia's father quickly arranged a marriage, in order to save his daughter's honor. She married Pierantonio Stiattesi. The couple moved to Florence, where Gentileschi became a celebrated artist. She was accepted into a painters' academy, befriended Galileo Galilei and was protected by the powerful de' Medici family.

Judith Beheading Holofernes (Uffizi)

oil on canvas (199 × 162 cm) — c. 1620

http://www.artbible.info/art/large/726.html
Comparison in art terms:
Describe, Analyze, Interpret, Judge

Caravaggio

Gentileschi
DUTCH BAROQUE ART

Dutch Baroque differs from "typical" baroque: it is calmer, less colorful, and less subject to fantasy. Instead it stressed realism.

Holland was the first democracy of Europe. Because of its Protestant beliefs, it discouraged religious art. Most of the usual patrons were not available, thus support for art had to come from private sales and commissions from merchant families.

Artists started to become "individuals" in their styles because they could create works of art without knowing who exactly who might own them or where they might be displayed. Creating works of art for themselves.

Some of the artists of this time were Frans Hal, Rembrandt van Rijn, and Jan Vermeer.
Frans Hals:
Noted for his loose painterly brushwork, and helped introduce this lively style of painting into Dutch art. Hals was also instrumental in the evolution of 17th century group portraiture.

- The Meagre Company
Barely 35 works are known to have been painted by Vermeer. His early paintings - mainly history pieces - reveal the influence of Caravaggists. In his later works, however, he produced meticulously constructed interiors with just one or two figures - usually women. These are intimate genre paintings in which the principal figure is invariably engaged in some everyday activity: one is reading a letter, another is fastening a collar about her neck, yet another is pouring out milk. Often the light enters Vermeer's paintings from a window. He was a master at depicting the way light illuminates objects and in the rendering of materials.
Rembrandt van Rijn: Most well-known artist of his time. Known for his many self-portraits at different stages of his life.
What is a still life? It is a tabletop arrangement of fruit, flowers, dishware, glasses, bottles, and other items which artists paint as realistically as possible.

These artists wanted to paint as realistically as possible, but couldn't use linear perspective because nature doesn't have straight lines. Therefore, these artists use a technique called aerial perspective.

Leonardo Da Vinci
ROCOCO

It was basically Baroque art, but was less serious because of its massive curves, pastel colors and themes of love and theater. Artists of this style usually painted fanciful myths and scenes of rustic outings with pretty ladies swinging and playing games. Once such artist was Antoine Watteau.
The artwork during the Rococo was created for the aristocracy who idled their time away.

Many artist started to combine landscape and portrait painting; painting portraits in a studio against an imaginary landscape background.

An example of this type of painting is called: **The Blue Boy** by Thomas Gainsborough
Another leading artist of this time is William Hogarth. He made fun of society in which he lived in. He created pictures showing how wrong-minded actions lead to downfall.

Introduction of satire to art

The Suicide of the Countess