

CHAPTER 1 Section 1 (pages 37–42)

Italy: Birthplace of the Renaissance

BEFORE YOU READ

In the prologue, you read about the development of democratic ideas.

In this section, you will begin your in-depth reading of modern history starting with the Renaissance.

AS YOU READ

Use this chart to take notes on important changes that occurred during the Renaissance in Italy.

TERMS AND NAMES

Renaissance Period of rebirth of art and learning in Europe lasting from about 1300 to 1600

humanism Focus on human potential and achievements

secular Concerned with worldly rather than spiritual matters

patrons People who financially supported artists

perspective Art technique that recreates three dimensions

vernacular Use of native language instead of classical Latin

CHANGES IN VALUES	CHANGES IN ART	CHANGES IN LITERATURE
Humanism—new focus on human potential and achievements		

Italy's Advantages (pages 37–38)

Why did the Renaissance begin in Italy?

The years 1300 to 1600 saw a rebirth of learning and culture in Europe called the **Renaissance**. This rebirth spread north from Italy. It began there for three reasons. First, Italy had several important cities. Cities were places where people exchanged ideas. Second, these cities included a class of *merchants* and bankers who were becom-

ing wealthy and powerful. This class strongly believed in the idea of individual achievement. Third, Italian artists and scholars were inspired by the ruined buildings and other reminders of *classical* Rome.

1. What are three reasons why the Renaissance began in Italy?
