

## Classical and Worldly Values (pages 38–39)

### What new values did people hold?

The new interest in the classical past led to an important value in Renaissance culture—**humanism**. This was a deep interest in what people have already achieved as well as what they could achieve in the future. Scholars did not try to connect classical writings to Christian teaching. Instead, they tried to understand them on their own terms.

In the Middle Ages, the emphasis had been mostly on *spiritual* values. Renaissance thinkers stressed **secular** ideas. These ideas centered on the things of the world. One way that powerful or wealthy people showed this interest in worldly things was by paying artists, writers, and musicians to create beautiful works of art. Wealthy people who supported artists were known as **patrons**.

People tried to show that they could master many fields of study or work. Someone who succeeded in many fields was admired greatly. The artist Leonardo da Vinci was an example of this ideal. He was a painter, a scientist, and an inventor. Men were expected to be charming, witty, well educated, well mannered, athletic, and self-controlled. Women were expected too have many accomplishments too. But, women were not to show them in public.

### 2. What are secular ideas?

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## Renaissance Revolutionizes Art (pages 39–41)

### How did art change during the Renaissance?

Renaissance artists sometimes used new methods. Sculptors made figures more *realistic* than those from the Middle Ages. Painters used **perspective** to create the illusion that their paintings were *three-dimensional*. The subject of artwork changed

also. Art in the Middle ages was mostly religious. Renaissance artists reproduced other views of life. Michelangelo showed great skill as an architect, a sculptor, and a painter.

### 3. How did the methods and subjects in art change?

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## Renaissance Writers Change Literature (pages 41–42)

### How did literature change during the Renaissance?

Renaissance writers also achieved greatness. Several wrote in the vernacular. This means they wrote in their native languages. It was a change from the Middle Ages, when most writing was done in Latin. Writers also changed their subject matter. They began to express their own thoughts and feelings. Sometimes they gave a detailed look at an individual. Dante and others wrote poetry, letters, and stories that were more realistic. Niccoló Machiavelli took a new approach to understanding government. He focused on telling rulers how to expand their power. He believed rulers should do what was politically effective, even if it was not morally right.

### 4. What did Renaissance writers write about?

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