

Artistic Ideas Spread (pages 43–45)

What ideas about art developed in Northern Europe?

The new ideas of Italian art moved to the north, where artists began to use them. Major artists appeared in parts of Germany, France, Belgium, and the Netherlands. Dürer painted religious subjects and realistic *landscapes*. Holbein, Van Eyck, and Bruegel painted *lifelike* portraits and scenes of *peasant* life. They revealed much about the times. They began to use *oil-based paints*. Oils became very popular, and their use spread to Italy.

2. What did Northern European artists paint?

Northern Writers Try to Reform Society (pages 45–46)

What did northern writers write?

Writers of the northern Renaissance combined humanism with a deep Christian faith. They urged reforms in the Church. They tried to make people more devoted to God. They also wanted society to be more fair. In England, Thomas More wrote a book about **Utopia**, an imaginary ideal society where greed, war, and conflict do not exist.

William Shakespeare is often called the greatest playwright of all time. His plays showed a brilliant command of the English language. They also show a deep understanding of people and how they interact with one another.

3. Who were two of the most famous writers of the northern Renaissance?

Printing Spreads Renaissance Ideas (pages 46–47)

Why was the printing press such an important development?

One reason that learning spread so rapidly during the Renaissance was the invention of *movable type*. The Chinese had invented the process of carving characters onto wooden blocks. They then arranged them in words, inked the blocks, and pressed them against paper to print pages.

In 1440, a German, Johann Gutenberg, used this same practice to invent his **printing press**. He produced his first book—the **Gutenberg Bible**—in 1455 on this press. The technology then spread rapidly. By 1500, presses in Europe had printed nearly 10 million books.

Printing made it easier to make many copies of a book. As a result, written works became available far and wide. Books were printed in English, French, Spanish, Italian, or German. More people began to read. The Bible was a popular book. After reading the Bible, some people formed new ideas about Christianity. These ideas were different from the official teachings of the Church.

4. What effects did the printing press have on northern European life?
