

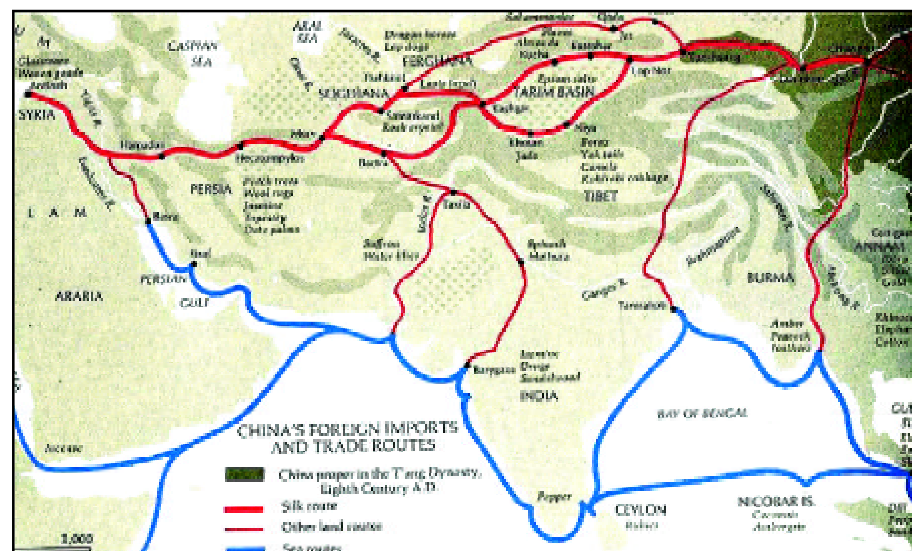
# EMERGENCE OF THE MODERN WORLD

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Indian Ocean was the centre of both commercial and cultural activities during the ancient and medieval periods. The 'Silk Route' connecting the West with China through Central Asia and the sea route from South East Asia to the West were the main trade routes.

During the Greco-Roman and feudal ages goods necessary for the Mediterranean people from the East passed through these routes.

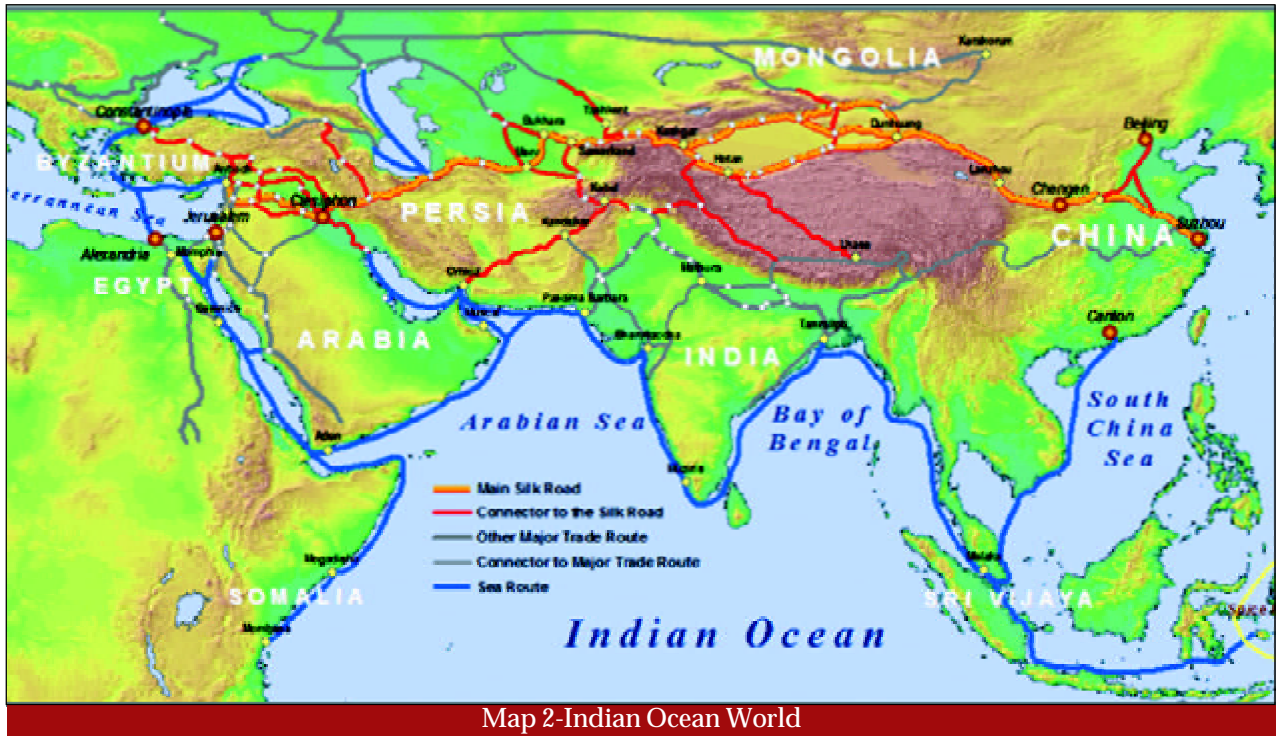
Indian Ocean trade was controlled by the Jews, Arabs and Turks after the spread of Islam. They controlled the trade through the Persian Gulf and Red Sea. The port city of Constantinople (present day Istanbul) connecting the Mediterranean with the Black Sea was held by the Greco-Roman traders who controlled



Map 1-Trade Routes



List out the major trade routes and the countries connected by them from Map 1



the Central Asian trade. Even when feudalism emerged after the decline of the Roman Empire, the Byzantine Empire with its capital Constantinople continued to flourish.

The Roman Catholic church imposed strict censorship on the quest for knowledge and rational thinking during the feudal age. But in the eastern world, i.e., in Islamic countries and India and China, notable contributions were made in the fields of literature, physics, mathematics, medical science, etc. Arab traders brought to Europe products like gun powder and paper as well as technologies like the mariner's compass and subjects like algebra. This cultural relation was further promoted during the time of the Crusades.

### Byzantine Empire

Byzantium was a small city founded by the Greeks on the Bosphorus which connects the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. It was the meeting place of ancient Greek and Persian cultures. Later this city and the adjacent region of Asia Minor became parts of the Roman Empire. This city was the centre of trade between the East and West. Because of its strategic importance, the Roman emperor Constantine made the city his second capital in the 4th century A.D and renamed it as Constantinople. By the end of the 4th century, when the Roman Empire was divided into two, Constantinople became the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire, also known as Byzantine Empire.



Notice Map 2. How does the position of Constantinople make it important? Discuss.

## Mediterranean World

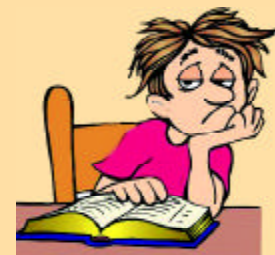
Of the three peninsulas jutting into the Mediterranean sea from Europe, Italy occupies the central position. The Alps in the north and the fertile Lombardy plains just south of it make Italy distinct from the other peninsulas. You have already learnt about the rise of an empire with its headquarters at the Italian city of Rome which became a great centre of wealth and civilization. This empire declined and several feudal chieftains assumed power. After a few centuries, a number of commercial cities arose in the Italian peninsula.

The residents of these cities were traders who bought eastern goods from the Arabs and sold them to the landlords and feudal chieftains of Western Europe. Besides trade, they also practised money-lending. Thus a

wealthy class of merchants emerged in these cities. The Italian peninsula surrounded by several small islands was congenial for oceanic trade. In each of these cities several rich families joined together with a view to promoting trade activities. These families controlled the administration of the cities. It was different from the administration of the feudal states in the rest of Europe.

## Italian Cities

The main commercial cities which grew up in the Mediterranean were Venice, Milan, Piza, Florence, Genoa, Bologna and Naples. Wealthy families like the Visconti in Milan and the Medici in Florence managed the administration of the cities. The population of the cities varied from five thousand to one lakh. The trade and administration of these



*What were the factors behind the growth. How did their administrative structure differ from those in feudal Europe?*

cities were controlled by wealthy families numbering between one hundred and one thousand. The land trade through Constantinople and the oceanic trade which controlled West Asia and North Africa enabled these merchants to become masters of the Mediterranean. Gibraltar, the gateway to the Atlantic, was also controlled by them. Thus the Indian Ocean world, which hitherto acted as the hub around which world trade and civilisation revolved, was gradually replaced by the Mediterranean. The morning star of the modern age had risen in the West.

The wealthy families of the Italian cities led an extravagant life. They built beautiful houses. For this they brought architects and artists from different parts of the world. Sculptors, artists and men of letters from far off places thus reached Italian cities. Among them were the people from the declining Byzantine Empire. The exponents of arts, literature and science from both the East and West thus reached these cities. It generated a new awakening in the intellectual field.



*How did the Italian cities become the meeting place of Western and Eastern knowledge?*

## Renaissance

The word 'Renaissance' means rebirth or revival. But it connotes the awakening of the artistic and intellectual activities which had taken place in the Italian cities and the rest of the European countries in the 14th and 15th centuries. It was the revival of the ancient Greco-Roman civilisation which suffered a setback under the feudal lords and the Catholic Church during the Middle Ages. It also means the emergence of the spirit of enquiry and criticism which rejected the irrational faith imposed by the Catholic Church. It did not happen in a single day.

The wealthy families of the Italian cities started looking into the past in search of their roots. It was an enquiry into the past to find out if the roots of their heritage extended to the ancient Greco-Roman cultures. As a result, manuscripts of several ancient texts were discovered. The scholars appointed by

them showed keen interest in the history of these cultures. They had to learn the ancient Greek and Latin languages to understand these texts. The prevailing medieval Latin was different from that of the ancient period. This led to the study of philology, since ancient Greek and Latin had gone out of use. The texts in those languages were translated into the newly emerging vernacular of Italian. Along with this, new texts were also produced. Thus Italian grew very fast.

Certain features which distinguished the medieval from the modern emerged during the Renaissance. They were:

- Spirit of inquiry
- Spirit of criticism
- Rational thinking
- Growth of vernacular literature
- Humanism - the concept that man is the measure of all things



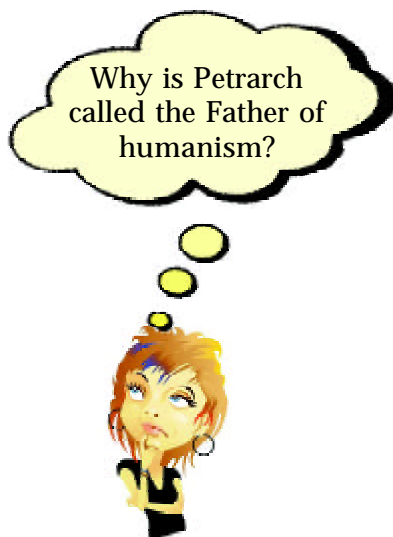
*How did changes in the mode of production reflect themselves in the human life of the age of Renaissance? Discuss.*

## Italian Renaissance

Renaissance in Italy is thought to have commenced with the literary contributions of Petrarch who lived in the 14th century. He wrote several sonnets dealing with love in the style of the ancient Greek writers. His sonnets deal with human feelings and aspirations which were different from the praise of gods, holy men and angels produced during the medieval period. The *Decameron* of Boccaccio dealt with the immoral life led by the feudal lords. It was a collection of one hundred stories in which the influence of the *Arabian Nights* could be seen. The *Divine Comedy* of Dante criticised certain medieval religious beliefs. It deals



Petrarch



Dante

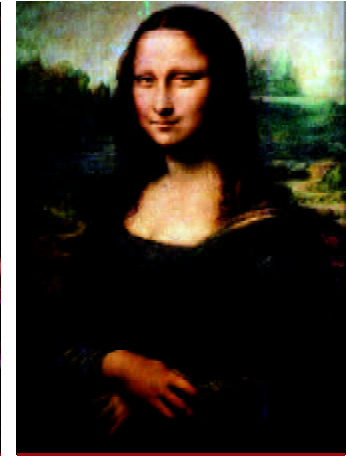
with an imaginary journey undertaken by Dante along with the ancient Roman poet Virgil into heaven and hell in search of his love who died an untimely death. All these texts are replete with the Renaissance spirit of criticism and humanism.

## Renaissance Art

The Italian artists inaugurated a new style in architecture, sculpture and painting. Renaissance art was enriched by the creations of artists like Leonardo da Vinci, Michael Angelo, Titian, Donatello, Brunelleschi and many others. Leonardo da Vinci made himself immortal by his painting *Mona Lisa*, the picture of a beautiful lady with her enigmatic smile. This painting is of the enchanting face of a lady, the style of which was different from the monotonous manner in which angels were painted in the medieval period. The painting, *Last Supper*, where Jesus sits composedly while his twelve disciples look suspiciously at each other, reflects the humanist expression of Da Vinci. In his *Virgin Mary*, the grief stricken countenance of Mary caused by the loss of her son is painted. The notebooks of Da Vinci reveal that besides his excellence as an artist, he was aware of the circulation of blood and mechanical flight.



Last Supper



Mona Lisa

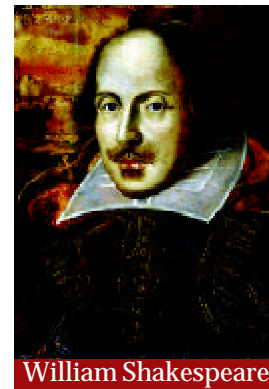
## Renaissance in other parts of Europe

Renaissance spread to other European countries from Italy through traders and money lenders. Vernacular languages like Spanish, English, Dutch, German, etc. grew during this period.

The Spanish poet Cervantes wrote the *Don Quixote* which depicts the hallucinations of the war-crazy medieval feudal knights. This text narrates the story of Count Quixote who passes through bylanes on horseback chopping the wayside plants and creepers and tilting at wind mills.

*In Praise of Folly* written in Dutch by Erasmus ridicules the out dated faith of the Catholic Church.

Though it is believed that the English Renaissance started with the publication of *Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer, it reached its culmination in the 16th century. The world-famous playwright William



William Shakespeare

Shakespeare and the blind bard John Milton were among the illustrious writers of the age.

## Political Thought

Nicolo Machiavelli was the most important among the political thinkers of the Renaissance period. His *Prince* marks the beginning of modern political thought. In this work he depicted a ruler who loved his subjects and was keen on the welfare of the people. This was a departure from the style of the anarchical feudal duchies of the medieval times.

The English theologian Sir Thomas Moore wrote *Utopia* in which he presented an idealistic society based on equality and

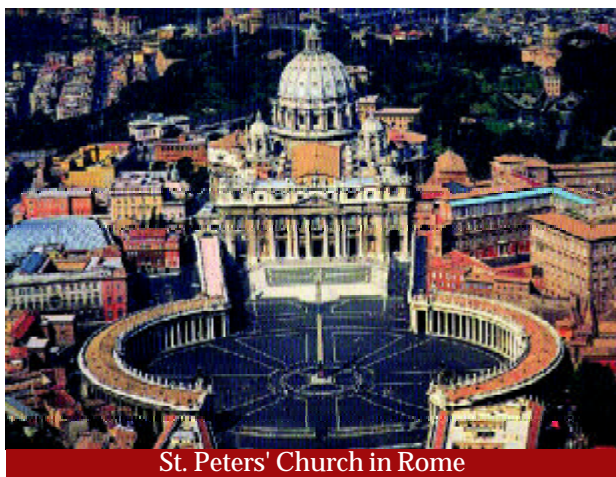
peace where there was no poverty, misery or crime. The word 'utopia' means 'nowhere'. This book sowed the seeds of socialism.



*Did the spirit of enquiry, criticism and humanism expressed in the Renaissance art and literature reflect themselves in the political thought of the age? Discuss.*

## Reformation

The changes which occurred in the socio-economic sectors reflected themselves in the religious life also. The reform movement which took place in the Catholic Church in the 16th century was known as the Protestant Reformation. Protests had arisen even earlier against the church. For instance, John Wycliff of Oxford and John Huss of Prague questioned the corruption and worldliness prevailing in the Church. But their efforts could not produce the desired results.



St. Peter's Church in Rome

Many pious believers, especially those who dwelt in cities, were reluctant to join the priestly profession because of the corrupt practices of the clergy. The number of heretics increased in many parts of Europe. Another reason was the growth of trade. The newly emerging merchant class supported the princes more than the clergy.

The Church faced a financial crisis in the 16th century. The attempt to renovate the St. Peter's Church in Rome involved huge financial burden. To overcome this crisis the Pope created many offices and sold them. The most notorious was the sale of 'Indulgences'. It was believed that the Indulgence would save the holder from the trial and hell. The Church collected money through the sale of Indulgences. This resulted in the huge abuse of power.

## Martin Luther

Martin Luther questioned the immorality in the sale in Indulgences. He was professor of theology in the University of Wittenberg in Germany. He formulated his arguments as 'Ninety five Theses' and nailed them on the front door of the church at Wittenberg. The Pope excommunicated him. Those who supported Luther were known as Protestants.





Door of the Wittenberg church

Following the invention of printing press, the Bible reached the common man. This

enabled the people to realise the corrupt and immoral practices prevailing in the Church. It helped to increase the followers of Luther in Germany and outside.

Ulrich Swingli of Switzerland and John Calvin of France were the other leaders of Reformation. The followers of John Calvin were known as Huguenots. The English Reformation had a political character. It was Henry VIII who gave leadership to this. During the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the Anglican Church was accepted as the official Church of England.



*The Renaissance ideas brought about changes in the Catholic Church. Examine this statement.*

## Counter Reformation

The Protestant Reformation demanded efforts of reform within the Catholic Church. This was known as the Counter Reformation or Catholic Reformation. It was after Pope Paul II who assumed office in 1534 that efforts at reforms began. The Catholic Church defended itself against criticisms in the Council of Trent which met from 1545 to 1563 at Trent in Germany. It was a council of Catholic priests which initiated the reform activities within the Church.

It prepared a list of books propagating heresy and banned them. It is known as the *Index*. It established the Court of Inquisition for the trial and punishment of heresy. Those who were found guilty were punished severely and many were burnt at stake.

Another agency of reform was the Society of Jesus founded by Ignatius Loyola, who was a former Spanish soldier. It was an organisation formed on military lines. The Jesuit Order was the missionary



Ignatius Loyola

organisation under Loyola's leadership for the propagation of Catholic faith.



## Religious Wars

The reformation caused ceaseless wars. The most important of these was known as the Thirty Years' War. It was a war between the Catholic royal family of Hapsburgs and the Protestant princes of Germany. In addition to religious causes there were local issues also to be settled. Internal politics and conflict of power too were issues in these wars. Gradually almost all European countries joined the war. The war wrought great havoc in Europe. Many died in the war and many

more perished due to the famine caused by the war. The war came to an end by the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648. It was a series of treaties signed by the rulers of the Holy Roman Empire, Austria, Spain, France and Sweden. The main feature of this treaty was that political leaders joined together and settled boundary disputes. The Pope lost his political power. It led to the emergence of nation states in Europe.



*Identify the major features of the Protestant and Counter Reformations.*

## Geographical Discoveries

The geographical explorations of the 15th and 16th centuries and the discovery of new territories and sea routes opened a new chapter in the history of the world. Several factors together led to these discoveries. The accounts of Marco Polo who travelled to the East got wide publicity in Europe. They aroused the curiosity about the wealth and lives of the people of countries like China and India.

The geographical explorations were launched in search of spices and other precious things of the East. Countries like Spain and Portugal tried to put an end to the monopoly of Mediterranean trade held by the Italian cities. The commodities from the East reached Europe through the Red Sea and Persian Gulf. But these routes were controlled by the Arabs and hence not safe for the Europeans. They had to travel to the East through the costly land route. When the Turks captured Constantinople in 1453, this route too was closed to the Europeans. Thus they were compelled to discover an

alternative sea route to India and other Asian countries. By the beginning of the 15th century big ships began to be constructed. A new Mariner's compass and the device of the Astrolabe came to be used widely in Europe. These devices enabled the European sailors to set out on long voyages. The Portuguese and the Spaniards were the pioneers in this field. Prince Henry the Navigator of Portugal founded a school



Marco Polo



First route of voyage of Christopher Columbus (Christopher Columbus in inset)

where training was given to young sailors in maritime explorations and navigation. In 1488 the sailors sent from this school under the leadership of Bartholomew Diaz reached the southernmost tip of Africa. The Portuguese hoped that they could reach India by crossing the Arabian sea from there. Following this, other European countries also joined the race of maritime explorations. The Spanish navigator Christopher Columbus applied the logic of sailing westward to reach the East as the earth was spherical. In 1492 he reached the eastern coast of American continent. It was called the 'New World' by the Europeans. In 1498 the expedition led by Vasco da Gama reached India by circumnavigating the Cape of Good Hope.

### Cape of Good Hope

The Portuguese King John II sent an expedition under the captaincy of Bartholomew Diaz with a view to finding out a sea route to India. When he reached the southernmost tip of Africa, he could not proceed further because of heavy storms. He called it the Cape of Storms and returned to Portugal . But John II hoped that a route to India could be found by rounding the cape. Hence he named it as Cape of Good Hope.





Vasco da Gama

### Complete the chart

Sailors	Country	Land discovered
John Cabbot	England	Newfoudland
Balboa	Spain	Panama
Cabral	Portugal	Brazil
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....



A team of explorers under the leadership Ferdinand Magellan set out in 1519 to circumnavigate the world. When he reached Philippines, he was killed by the natives in an encounter. His crew reached Spain in 1522. Thus was accomplished the first circumnavigation of the world. The project of explorations was followed by many European countries. The first batch of voyagers who explored the eastern coast of North America was led by John Cabbot. Thus were discovered Newfoundland, Labradore, Hudson Bay, etc., where the English and the French established their colonies.

### The results of Geographical Discoveries

The Geographical Discoveries and explorations produced far-reaching results. Asian trade made the Europeans rich. It led to the rise of colonial empires. Papaya, banana, pineapple, tea, tobacco, etc. reached different parts of the world. Large scale aggressions and migrations took place. It led to the rise of slave trade. These developments led to the rise of great transformations in environment, agriculture, human civilisations and similar fields.

As a result of colonialism, the Maya, Inca, Toltec and Aztec civilizations of South America were destroyed. A sizable portion of the native population was destroyed by epidemics like small pox, chicken pox, syphilis, etc. brought by the Europeans.

The main objective of the Europeans in Asia was the monopoly of trade. They wielded political power and used military force to conquer territories to achieve it. This led to the large scale colonisation of Asia and Africa. The rich natural resources of the

colonies came under the control of the colonisers and they became wealthy by this exploitation.

West European countries like Portugal, Spain, France and England came to exercise a monopoly of world trade. Thus Mediterranean trade began to decline gradually. As a result of colonisation the cultural gulf between East and West

widened. Deliberate attempts were made to destroy native culture in the colonies.

The commercial relations with the colonies led to the rise of the wealthy middle class in Europe. The old system of usury gave way to banking. Merchants joined together and formed joint stock companies. The English East India Company is an example.



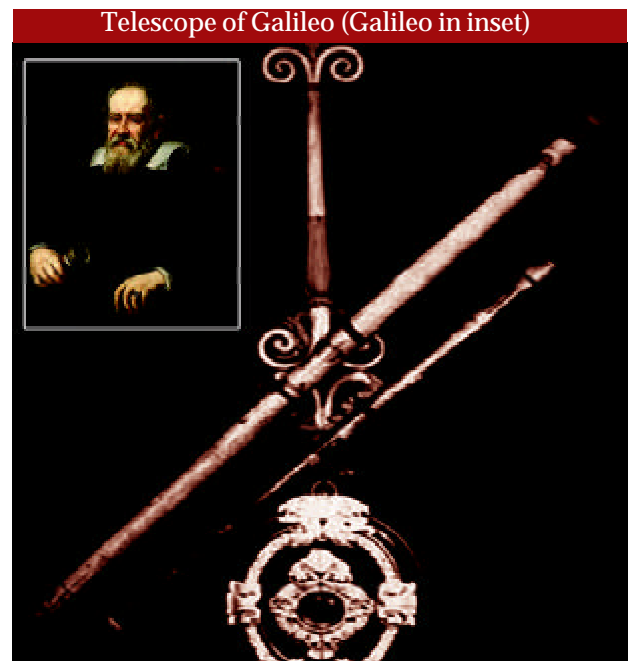
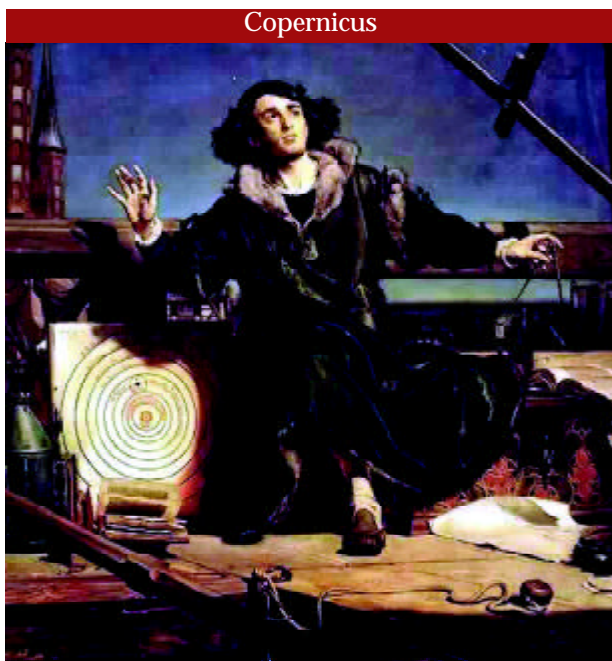
*'The geographical discoveries and maritime explorations brought about tremendous changes in the political structure and economic sector of European countries'. Discuss.*

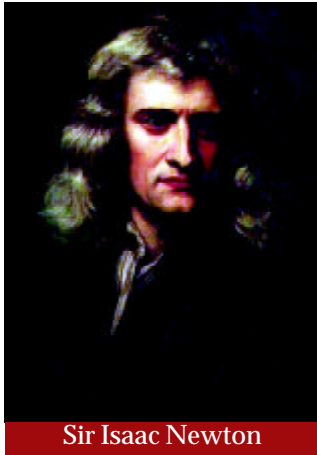
### Progress of Science

Heralding a new age, science made great progress. Philosophers began to observe the universe in a new manner and tried to explain natural phenomena with new methods. The versatile genius, Leonardo Da Vinci, observed anatomy and nature keenly and drew his pictures.

Copernicus put forward the helio-centric theory in the place of the prevalent

geocentric theory. But it was not acceptable at that time. Galileo Galili invented the telescope and proved that Copernicus was right. The rejection of the geocentric theory completely transformed the European world view. Sir Isaac Newton's book *Principia Mathematica* put forward the theories of gravitation and laws of motion.





Sir Isaac Newton



Carl Linneaus

Medical science, chemistry, mathematics, physics, natural science, new knowledge about magnetism and electricity, etc. made considerable progress.

By introducing a new method in the study of science and experiments, Galileo effected a revolution in science. His scientific method was followed by Francis Bacon and Descartes. Great contributions were made in

the fields of astronomy, physics, zoology, human physiology, etc. The Swedish scientist Carl Linneaus contributed much to the branches of zoology, botany and medical science. He is considered as the father of taxonomy, scientific classification of animals and ecology. He introduced the practice of binomial nomenclature in the classification of plants and animals.



*The progress achieved by science after the Renaissance opened a new age in history. The Renaissance thoughts and ideas led to many inventions which transformed human life. Can you find out the changes caused by each invention?*

## Enlightenment

The Renaissance ideas of rationalism and humanism were repeated in the age of Enlightenment also. Enlightenment was an advancement in the intellectual activities of man which tried to explain the natural world and the role of man in it in the light of rationalism. The conflict between religious faith and rationalism was the feature of Enlightenment. The Enlightenment thinkers tried to understand and explain things in the light of reason based on facts and evidences.

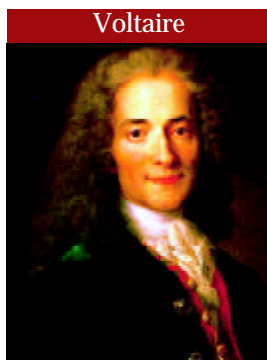
The main ideas of this age can be summed up as follows.

- Contemporary age is that of progress.
- Reason is the unerring guide to knowledge.
- Nature is a machine, the working of which cannot be altered by man.
- A simple and natural society is an ideal one.
- There is no original sin.

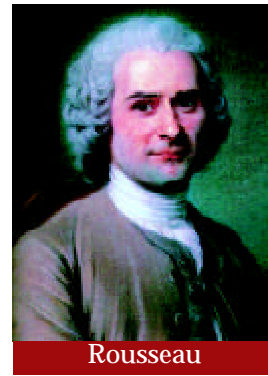
Though Enlightenment began in England, its best expression could be seen in France. The theory of causation of Descartes and Spinoza kindled the Enlightenment but the real exponents of this movement were Sir Isaac Newton and John Locke. The contribution of Newton was that he gave a mechanistic interpretation of nature. John Locke who is known as the father of epistemology argued that the basis of knowledge is empirical.

Enlightenment Thinkers	
Denis Diderot	1713-1784
Montesquieu	1689-1755
Voltaire	1694-1778
Rousseau	1712-1778
Immanuel Kant	1724-1804
Thomas Paine	1737-1809
Thomas Jefferson	1743-1826

Diderot was interested in subjects like language, literature, drama, law, philosophy, mathematics, etc. He vehemently opposed the faith held by the Catholic Church. He was the editor of the multi-volume *Encyclopedie*, which was a collection of articles by the French writers of the 18th century. The ideas and opinions expressed in these articles led to the spread of science and philosophy. New insights into the emerging political institutions came up during the age of Enlightenment.



Voltaire



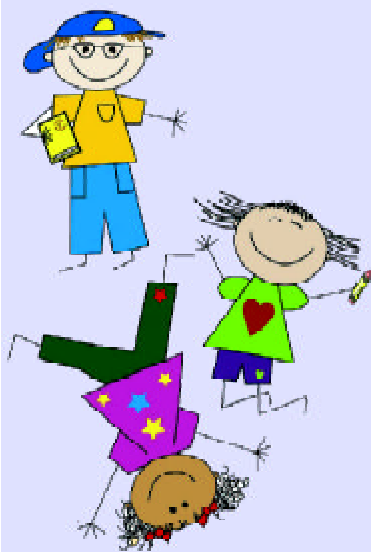
Rousseau

Montesquieu believed that the separation of powers between legislative, executive and judicial functions of government would ensure more political freedom. He also put forward the principle of checks and balances.

Voltaire stood for religious freedom, free trade and civil liberties. He supported the social reform movements. He was a critic of intolerance, religious orthodoxy and the inequalities of the contemporary society. Rousseau believed that man is essentially good in the state of nature - a 'noble savage'. Social experiences make men unhappy and corrupt. In his treatise *Social Contract*, he stated that state came into being as a result of a contract arrived at by the people themselves.

Science was popularised by the philosophes. The Scientific Revolution led to the emergence of scientific organisations. In addition to the *Encyclopedie*, many other publications emerged in the study of science. The scientific method for enquiry and invention was made universal by the Enlightenment. People showed keen interest in the inquiry into 'truth' and 'natural phenomena'. Philosophers began to write about governance, politics and human rights. The political revolutions of Europe in the 18th and 19th centuries were influenced by the Enlightenment. Rationalism became the slogan of the age.

## Activities



- The decline of feudalism and the progress of trade paved the way for European Renaissance. Evaluate this statement in the Italian context.
- What were the changes brought about by the invention of printing press in religion and literature in Europe?
- All walks of human life in Europe were influenced by the values of Renaissance. Analyse the above statement.
- Prepare an album of Renaissance paintings
- How did the German Reformation influence the rest of Europe?
- How did the Geographical Discoveries enable the European countries to establish their hegemony over the rest of Europe?
- How did the basic ideas of Enlightenment help in the progress of Science? Analyse and prepare a note?
- Prepare a chart of the countries and the leaders of the Geographical Discoveries.