

Important Dates in the Late Medieval and Renaissance Periods

1215 A.D.

The **Magna Carta is signed, establishing the rule of law in England, as opposed to the will of the King. It influenced the early settlers in New England and inspired later constitutional documents, including the **United States Constitution.****

1295 A.D.

Explorer **Marco Polo** publishes his tales of China after visiting the Far East.

1337 A.D.

The **Hundred Years' War** begins when King Edward III of England lays claim to the French throne in 1337.

1338-1350 A.D.

The “Black Death” plaque overtakes most of Europe, wiping out between 30% and 60% of the population.

It would take more than a hundred years for European civilization to recover.

Famous Late Medieval Writers

Dante Alighieri (1265–1321)

**Italian poet and writer; author of
the famous *Dante's Inferno***

Geoffrey Chaucer (c. 1343–1400?)

**was an English author, poet, philosopher,
bureaucrat, courtier and diplomat;
author of *Canterbury Tales***

Famous Late Medieval Writers

Francesco Petrarca (Petrarch) Italian poet
and writer (1303-1374)
famous for his **Sonnets**

Giovanni Boccaccio (1313–1375)
Italian author; student of Petrarch and
author of ***Decameron***

1400 A.D.

The Renaissance period begins in Florence Italy and slowly spreads throughout most of Europe over the next 50 years.

In some places further away from Italy such as England, the Renaissance does not fully begin until the early 1500s.

1439 A.D.

**Johannes Guttenberg invents the
printing press, leading the way to a
revolution in communication and the
distribution of knowledge
in Europe.**

1492 A.D.

Columbus sails to the New World.

1503 A.D.

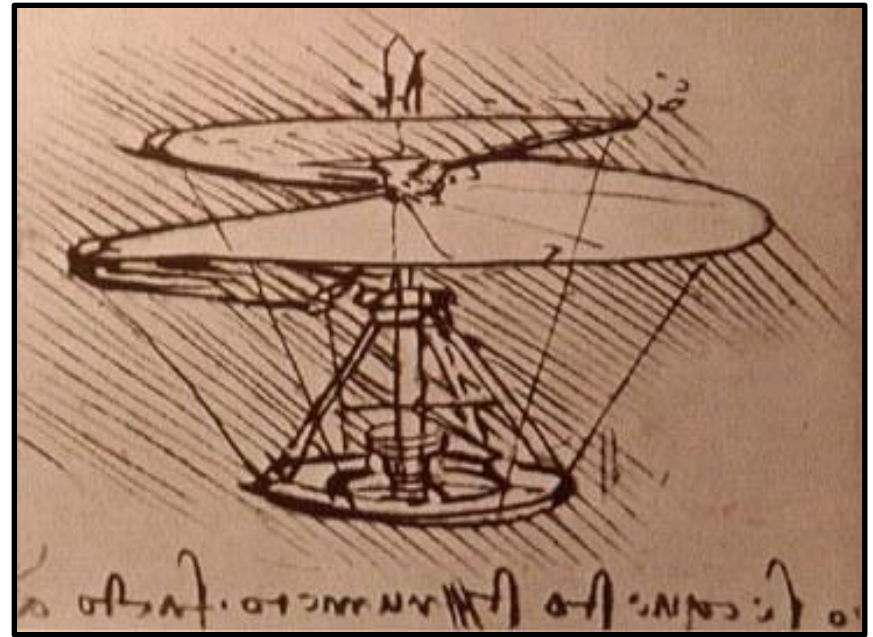
Leonardo da Vinci paints the **Mona Lisa**. Over the next 5 centuries, it becomes known as the most famous painting in the world.

Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519 AD)

The Original “Renaissance Man”

Leonardo da Vinci's scientific studies included aeronautics, anatomy, astronomy, botany, cartography, civil engineering, chemistry, geology, geometry, hydrodynamics, mathematics, mechanical engineering, optics, physics, pyrotechnics and zoology.

**Works of
Leonardo da Vinci's
imagination include
conceptualizations
of a **helicopter**,
solar power,
a calculator and a
rudimentary theory
of **plate tectonics**.**



Leonardo da Vinci's conceptual drawing of a helicopter, made nearly 400 years before the invention of the modern helicopter.

1517

**German friar, priest and professor of
theology, Martin Luther writes
The Ninety-Five Theses,
which initiated the
Protestant Reformation,
a religious movement that spread
throughout Europe and eventually,
around the world.**

1509-1547

Henry VIII is King of England.

In 1534, the Parliament of England passed the Act of Supremacy, making Henry the head of the Church of England.

This is the beginning of what became known as the **English Reformation**.

1564-1616

William Shakespeare lives and works.

He eventually comes to be regarded as the greatest playwright and poet in the history of the English language, influencing nearly all other writers who follow.

1512

Italian painter and sculptor

Michelangelo (1475-1564)

**finishes painting the ceiling of the
Sistine Chapel in Rome, considered to be
one of the largest and most ambitious
artworks in history up to that time.**

**(At the time, it was also
considered to be obscene.)**

After the year 1600,
the Renaissance came to a gradual end
with the emergence of a new period
in the history of art and music,
the Baroque period.

