The Renaissance Era:
Art, Architecture and Music
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How to use a unit study from Intellego Unit Studies

1. The PDF file containing this unit study is graphic intensive and full color. In addition, the PDF contains all of the links needed for the Internet activities. Therefore, it is not necessary to print the entire PDF. Instead, view the PDF on your computer, printing the specific pages your children will need to complete the written activities. You may also wish to print the Table of Contents and use it as a checklist to monitor your child’s progress.

2. This unit study contains internal links for ease of navigation within the PDF. Each time you open the PDF, you can scroll to the Table of Contents and click on the appropriate link to take you to your next activity.

3. Of course, you can always jump in and get started immediately, but we recommend reviewing the Materials Inventory lists and gathering your supplies before you begin with the first activity in Chapter One. Although additional books and library materials are not required to complete a unit study from Intellego Unit Studies, we recommend a quick stop at the local library before beginning your unit study. Intellego Unit Studies does not recommend specific book titles (due to availability variables in local libraries across the country), but many parents find that printing the Table of Contents and taking that to the library helps them gather any additional resources on the topics that their children might desire.

4. We recommend that children create a portfolio notebook for this unit study. This provides a handy place to keep the child’s expressive work. Photos of children’s art work and hands-on activities should also be included in the portfolio, along with their Vocabulary Journal that they will begin building in Chapter One.

The portfolio notebook can be as simple as a plain file folder with your child’s illustrations on the cover or as elaborate as an entire scrapbook, complete with all of the bells and whistles. Either way (or everything in between) is fine….it all depends on the child!

5. Each unit study is organized by chapter. Each chapter begins with a materials list, a vocabulary introduction, and an activities list.

Each chapter unfolds with a wide variety of engaging multi-sensory activities. Most activities contain an introduction followed by a web link. Have your children read the information (or read it to them) and then
double click on the link (make sure your Internet browser is open). After you have finished with the web link, return to this Intellego Unit Studies PDF file to continue on.

Each chapter also includes Extension Activities, set apart in yellow text boxes for easy identification. The extension activities are not required, but they are essential to the unit study concept because they create the bridge between different curriculum areas or skills. For example, the extension activity may offer a related science experiment or art project that connects to the theme of the unit study.

Each chapter concludes with a reflection and exploration activity. This activity presents your children with the opportunity to evaluate and synthesize what they have learned in each chapter before moving on to the next. There is no set time limit for this activity. Follow their lead and allow them to spend additional time exploring related topics of interest.

6. Our unit studies are meant to serve the K-12 population of students, although subject matter does dictate age appropriateness. If you are using this unit study with children of varying ages, rest assured that this unit study is easily adaptable. Possible adaptations:

- Any required reading within the unit study or through a web link may be completed by the student or with the parent’s help.
- Discussion questions can be discussed orally or adapted into writing exercises.
- Writing assignments can be dictated to the parent and then used for copy work by the student to encourage writing fluency.
- Vocabulary lists may be used to build decoding, sight word recognition, or spelling skills.
- Topics may be further explored or researched according to interest and ability.
- All activities can be adapted into expository writing exercises.

You are the best judge of your children’s abilities, skills, and educational needs. Therefore, there is no right way or wrong way to adapt the activities within this unit study. This allows you to make adaptations while still providing the structure, research, preparation and web links to make it easy on you, the parent!

7. Each unit study incorporates as many areas of curriculum as possible and as relevant. However, many parents who use Intellego Unit Studies incorporate separate mathematics and language arts programs in their children’s study.
Our unit studies provide concrete examples and applications of the skills your children are learning in their separate math and language arts studies. For example, if your children are currently learning about parts of speech, encourage them to apply that knowledge to reading and writing activities within the unit study. You may wish to print a page from one of the web links they found particularly engaging. Ask them to identify parts of speech after they have read for content. In addition, any writing activities that they complete can also be used to show them how they are using the various parts of speech in their own writing. This type of application can be incorporated with any language arts curriculum or concept, from nouns and verbs to multi-page expository writing.

All of our unit studies provide opportunities for children to practice and apply reading skills. For reluctant readers, you may want to encourage their reading by reading along with them as you progress through the various activities and web links. Add challenging words to their vocabulary journal. Check their comprehension by allowing them to read the directions for activities, experiments, and crafts. Regardless of your child’s reading level, this unit study provides the opportunity to explore the written word and practice decoding and encoding skills.

In the area of mathematics, encourage your children to identify patterns, look for classifications, or apply their math skills to the activities within an the unit study. For example, any experiments or activities that require measuring can easily be used to demonstrate new mathematical concepts or reinforce acquired knowledge with practical applications. Ratios, fractions, decimals, and other concepts can be brought into any activity that requires children to sort information, compile lists, compare and contrast, measure, create, or build.

There is no right or wrong way to incorporate your language arts and math curriculums into this unit study. The key is to look for areas where there is a natural connection between what your child is working on in language arts and math and what your child is doing within a unit study. Experiment, try some new things, and enjoy the integrative process!

8. An answer key is located in the Appendix, which can be found at the end of the file or by clicking on the Chapter Answers link in the bookmarks.
*Important Notes to parents:*

- Intellego Unit Studies tests and verifies all Internet links in our unit studies continually and we make changes accordingly. To provide you with corrected links, Intellego Unit Studies uses a link redirection database. When you click on an external link in the unit study, your internet browser will access the Intellego Unit Studies link database for the actual current link. If you discover an expired link, please report it [here](#).

- This unit study contains links to Internet sites. Although we make every effort to link only to child-safe websites, Internet content can change rapidly. Please supervise your children at all times when they are online. If you encounter material unsuitable for children, please notify us [here](#).

- Many of the activities in this unit study require parent supervision and assistance. Please supervise your children when they are using tools or sharp instruments. Experiments and hands-on activities should be completed ONLY under the supervision of a responsible adult.

- Many of the activities in this unit study utilize videos available on www.youtube.com. Intellego Unit Studies cannot control the content available on Youtube. We strongly recommend that parents open the Youtube videos for their children and then enlarge the video window to full screen. That way, your children will not be distracted by competing images while watching their video, and they will not be exposed to possible inappropriate material loaded by other users of Youtube.
Quick Troubleshooting Guide:

**Problem:** Videos/interactive web sites play slowly or with interruptions

**Solution:** This is due to your connection speed and/or the speed of your computer. Verify your Internet connections and verify that your system meets the minimum requirements for an Intellego Unit Study by clicking here.

**Problem:** Nothing happens when you click on a link to go to a web site

**Solution:** This problem is associated with the settings for PDFs on your computer. To resolve this issue, you will need to know what version of Adobe Reader/Acrobat is on your computer. Follow the steps below:

How to find the version of Adobe Acrobat or Reader

1. Open Adobe on your computer
2. Click on the “Help” tab
3. Click on “About Adobe Reader/Acrobat

The window that appears will detail which Adobe product and version is on your computer.

Click on the window to close it.

If you are using Adobe Reader/Acrobat 9:
PDF documents may open with a message bar across the top indicating that you are viewing the document in PDF/A mode. This is an ISO standard for PDFs.

Links will not work in PDF/A mode.

To access the links, perform the following steps:

1. Load the CD and open the unit study.
2. For Windows:
   a. Click on “Edit” on the top toolbar
   b. Click on “Preferences” from the drop down menu
   
   For Mac OS:
   Click on “Acrobat” > Preferences
3. Click on the “Documents” option under “Categories”
4. Choose “Never” under “View Documents in PDF/A mode”
5. Click on the OK button to exit this window

If you are using Adobe Reader/ Acrobat 8 or an older version:
1. Load the CD and open the unit study
2. Click on “Edit” on the top menu bar
3. Click on “Preferences” from the drop down menu
4. Click on “Trust Manager”
5. Select “allow all” for Internet access from PDF

**Problem:** The first time you open a link in one of the unit studies, you receive a Security Warning

**Solution:**
1. Check the box for “Remember my action for this site”
2. Click on the “Allow” button
Objectives

Welcome to *The Renaissance Era: Art, Architecture and Music!* In this unit study, your children will explore the Western European renaissance period with an emphasis on art, architecture and music.

After completing this unit study, your children should be able to:

1. Identify and define the renaissance era.
2. Interpret the characteristics of renaissance art, architecture and music.
3. Summarize the historical influences upon the renaissance era.
4. Identify and describe scientific contributions during the renaissance era.
5. Compare and contrast the work of renaissance artists, architects, and composers.
6. Evaluate several influential renaissance artists, architects and composers as well as their work.

*Although this is a secular unit study, many of the images your children will see in their study of renaissance art are based on themes of Christianity. As your children will learn, the Church was a powerful force in the renaissance period and it heavily influenced the arts. Therefore, the art and influence of the Church are included here as an historical lesson and not as religious doctrine.*
Materials Needed for this Unit Study

Materials for every chapter:
- Vocabulary journal
- Atlas or globe
- Writing and drawing materials
- Paper

Chapter One

Activity 1.3
Writing and drawing materials

Extension Activity – Investigate renaissance fashion
Drawing materials

Extension Activity – Cook a renaissance meal
Ingredients based on the recipes you select

Chapter Two

Activity 2.3
Drawing materials
Map or atlas of Europe

Activity 2.6
Salt
Flour
Water
Bowl
Cardboard or plywood
Paper
Aluminum foil
Tempera paint
Steel wool
Paper towel
Chapter Three

Activity 3.2
Drawing materials
Map or atlas of Europe

Activity 3.6
Many newspapers
Masking tape
Measuring tape
Markers and glue

Chapter Four

Activity 4.2
Drawing materials
Map or atlas of Europe

Activity 4.6
Painting materials or diorama materials of your choosing

Extension Activity
Drawing materials

Chapter Five

Activity 5.2
Drawing materials
Map or atlas of Europe

Activity 5.6
Painting materials

Extension Activity – A Snapshot in Time: The Great Wall of China
Painting materials

Chapter Six

Activity 6.2
Drawing materials
Map or atlas of Europe

Activity 6.6
Painting materials

Extension Activity – Make a word collage
Your choice of collage materials
Chapter Seven

Activity 7.3
Drawing materials
Map or atlas of Europe

Activity 7.6
Painting materials

Extension Activity – The Vitruvian Man: Applied Math Activity
Tape measure and string
Graph paper

Chapter Eight

Activity 8.3
Drawing materials
Map or atlas of Europe

Activity 8.5
Painting or diorama materials

Extension Activity – Meet King Henry VIII of England
Painting materials

Chapter Nine

Activity 9.3
Drawing materials
Map or atlas of Europe

Activity 9.6
Clay or diorama materials

Extension Activity – Reflections of an artist
Paper and painting materials
Glue
Small mirror (from a dollar or thrift store)
Chapter Ten

Activity 10.3
Drawing materials
Map or atlas of Europe

Activity 10.5
Drawing, sketching or painting materials

Extension Activity – Snapshot in Time: Ferdinand Magellan
Painting materials

Extension Activity – Make a Titian collage
Paperboard
Paper and drawing/sketching/painting materials
Glue and scissors
Other materials you select

Chapter Eleven

Activity 11.3
Drawing materials
Map or atlas of Europe

Activity 11.4
Building materials that you select

Extension Activity – Prepare a Palladio poster
Poster board
Painting materials

Chapter Twelve

Activity 12.3
Drawing materials
Map or atlas of Europe

Activity 12.5
Drawing, sketching or painting materials
Chapter Thirteen

Activity 13.3
Drawing materials
Map or atlas of Europe

Activity 13.4
Drawing, sketching or painting materials

Extension Activity – Snapshot in time: Cervantes
3 sheets 5”x 20” drawing paper
Glue Sticks
Scissors
Assortment of decorative paper
Popsicle Sticks
Wax Paper
Paint brushes
Photo Corners
Scrap Paper
Decorative Scissors (optional)

Chapter Fourteen

Activity 14.3
Drawing materials
Map or atlas of Europe

Activity 14.4
Drawing, sketching or painting materials
Chapter One
Introduction to the Renaissance Era

Materials for Chapter One
Vocabulary journal
Writing and drawing materials
Paper

Activity 1.3
Writing and drawing materials

Extension Activity – Investigate renaissance fashion
Drawing materials

Extension Activity – Cook a renaissance meal
Ingredients based on the recipes you select
Chapter One Vocabulary
Help your children build vocabulary while having fun!

The vocabulary of children is diverse and dynamic. Therefore, we have not included a vocabulary list as each child’s vocabulary is at a different stage of development. Instead, Intellego Unit Studies encourages children to build their own vocabulary lists.

We recommend starting a Vocabulary Journal in Chapter One that your children can add to in each lesson. Below are some ideas for helping your children build vocabulary while having fun!

1. Have your children identify all unfamiliar words as they encounter them in this chapter.

2. Use the link below, if you choose, for the online children’s dictionary. Or help your children develop dictionary skills by using a dictionary in your home.


3. Copy the unfamiliar words into their Vocabulary Journal (a notebook will do just fine!) and then illustrate the word.

4. Use the new word in a sentence. Encourage them to come up with rhymes, either real words or nonsense words, and include those as well.

5. Write the new words in the air with their fingers, making huge sweeping motions as they write.

6. “Write” the words on the floor with their toes!

7. Clap out the syllables in each new word.

8. Examine the new word. Identify if it “plays by the rules” phonetically, so that it can be sounded out for spelling, or if it is a “rule breaker” that must be memorized.

9. The objective here is to help them use as many senses as possible so that retention of the new words is increased.
Activity List for Chapter One

Activity 1.1 – Introduction to the renaissance
Activity 1.2 – View the renaissance period
Activity 1.3 – Define renaissance
Activity 1.4 – Explore renaissance within an historical context
Activity 1.5 – Compare life in the renaissance period
Extension Activity – Investigate renaissance fashion
Extension Activity – Cook a renaissance meal
Activity 1.6 – Prepare to study renaissance art
Extension Activity – Explore visual elements and principles
Extension Activity – Explore more principles of art
Activity 1.7 – Prepare to study renaissance architecture
Activity 1.8 – Prepare to study renaissance music
Activity 1.9 – Complete your KWL chart
Activity 1.10 – Reflect on and explore the topics in Chapter One

Verrocchio, circa 1470
Activity 1.1 – Introduction to the renaissance

Welcome to the renaissance era! We begin our study of the renaissance era with a brief activity to find out what your children already know as well as what they want to know.

To begin, ask your children to describe the renaissance era. When was it? Where was it? Why did it happen? How would you describe it?

Have your children complete the first two sections of the following KWL worksheet before they complete the activities in Activity 1.2. They will complete the final section of the KWL chart in Activity 1.9.
### What I already know about the renaissance era

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

### What I want to know about the renaissance era

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

### What I learned about the renaissance era

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

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Sample
Activity 1.2 – View the renaissance period

Welcome to the renaissance period of Western Europe! Although there is no exact beginning of the renaissance, historians place this time period as beginning during the 14th century and lasting until approximately 1600. Before we jump into a language-based definition of what renaissance means, let’s begin our exploration of the renaissance period with a visual representation of this era. The following 2-minute video provides a brief overview of the renaissance and some of the important people of the era.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4mgSPIAiBjU&feature=related

Use the following questions as discussion points or writing prompts:

1. What did you see in the film?
2. How would you describe the art you viewed in the film?
3. In your opinion, what adjectives do you think best describe the renaissance period as represented in the above film? Record these answers so that you can compare them to the adjectives you will use after you have learned about the renaissance period in detail.
Activity 1.3 – Define renaissance

Now that your children have viewed the brief film on elements of the renaissance, let’s begin our study of the renaissance era with a definition.

The renaissance era, in general, refers to a specific period of Western European cultural and artistic styles. The renaissance style did eventually travel to many corners of the globe, although many historians believe it began in Italy, and more specifically, Florence. Yet the term renaissance generally defines the Western European art styles of the 1400s until roughly 1600.

Follow the link below to read the Merriam-Webster dictionary definition of renaissance:
http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/renaissance

Based on the definition at the above web site, how has your understanding of the renaissance period changed from Activity 1.2?

Next, read more details about the renaissance era from The History Channel. This provides a quick overview of the time periods within the Renaissance as well as some of the key artists and architects. This is intended only as an overview of what is to come in this unit study so that students have an introduction to some of the key phrases and artists. We will dig into the details in more depth in upcoming chapters.
http://www.history.com/encyclopedia.do?articleId=220512

Then, spend some time at the following site and enjoy a “Journey through the Renaissance.” Again, many of the themes, events and people will be explored in more detail in upcoming chapters, so this is meant as an overview of what is to come:
http://library.thinkquest.org/C005356/journey.htm

On the following page, write the definition of renaissance and also draw an image that provides a visual representation of renaissance that is meaningful to you.