



Grades 5 and Up

Renaissance

Learning Lapbook with Study Guides

Study Guides written by Michelle Miller,

author of *TruthQuest History™*



A Journey Through Learning
www.ajourneythroughlearning.com

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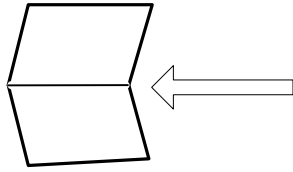
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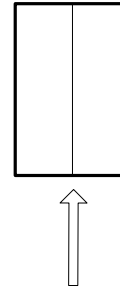
**Special thank you to Michelle Miller,
author of TruthQuest History™,
for her writing of the study guides for this lapbook!
Check out TruthQuest History™ at
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Things to Know

Hamburger Fold-Fold horizontally



Hotdog Fold-Fold vertically

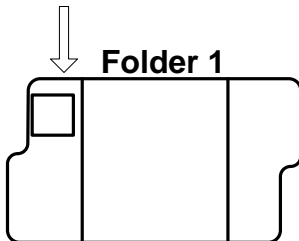


Dotted Lines-These are the cutting lines

Accordion Fold-This fold is like making a paper fan. Fold on the first line so that title is on top. Turn over and fold on next line so that title is on top again. Turn over again and fold again on the next line so that title is on top. Continue until all folds are done.

Cover Labels-Most of the booklets that are folded look nicer with a label on top instead of just a blank space. They will be referred to as "cover label."

How do I know where to place each booklet in the lapbook?



This placement key tells you the booklet goes in the first folder at the top of the left flap.

A booklet placement key is at the top of every booklet page. This key shows where that particular booklet will go in that folder.

Lapbook Assembly Choices

(see photos on how to fold and glue your folders together)

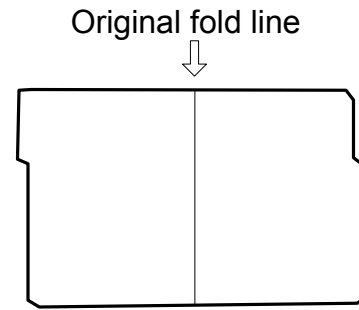
We recommend using Zip Dry Glue.

Choice #1 -Do not glue your folders together until you have completely finished all three folders. It is easier to work with one folder instead of two or three glued together.

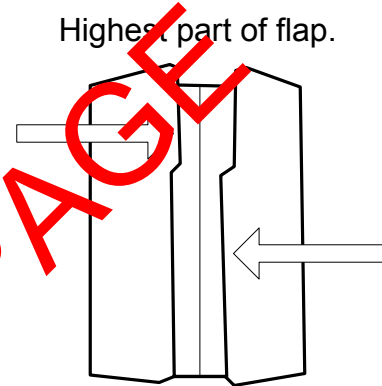
Choice #2 -Glue all of your folders together before beginning. Some children like to see the entire project as they work on it. It helps with keeping up with which folder you are supposed to be working in. The choices are completely up to you and your child!

Folding a Lapbook Base

Gather the number of folders required for the project. Fold them flat as seen here.



For each folder, fold the left and right sides inward toward the original line to create two flaps. Crease so that the highest part of each flap is touching the original line. It is important not to let the two flaps overlap. *You may want to take a ruler and run it down each crease to make it sharper.*



Glue your folders together by putting glue (or you may staple) on the inside of the flaps. Then press the newly glued flaps together with your hands until they get a good strong hold to each other. Follow this step to add as many folders as you need for your project. Most of our lapbooks have either 2 or 3 folders.

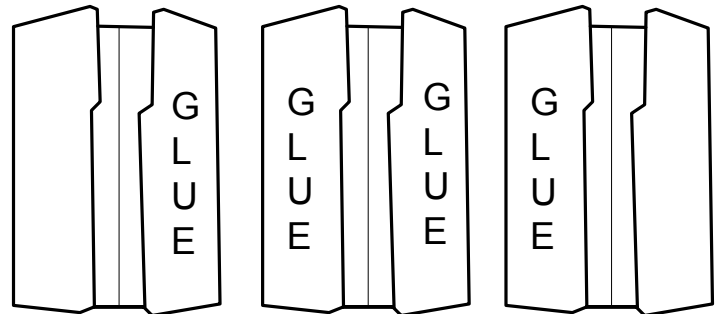
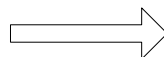


Photo of a completed lapbook base



Supplies and Storage

- *Lapbook Pages
- *3 Colored File Folders
- *Scissors
- *Glue
- *Stapler
- *Brads (not needed for every lapbook. If brads are not available, a stapler will do.)
- *Hole Puncher (again, not needed for every lapbook.)

To make the storage system (optional)

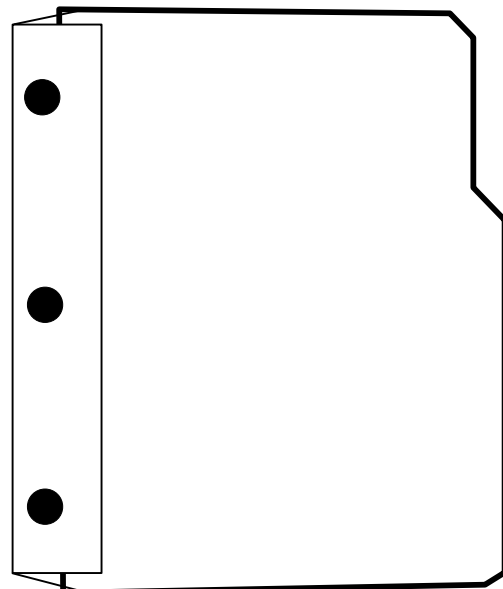
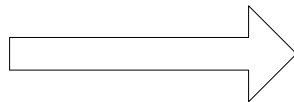
See details below about the use of a storage system.

- *Duct tape (any color)
- *One 3-ring binder
- *Hole Puncher

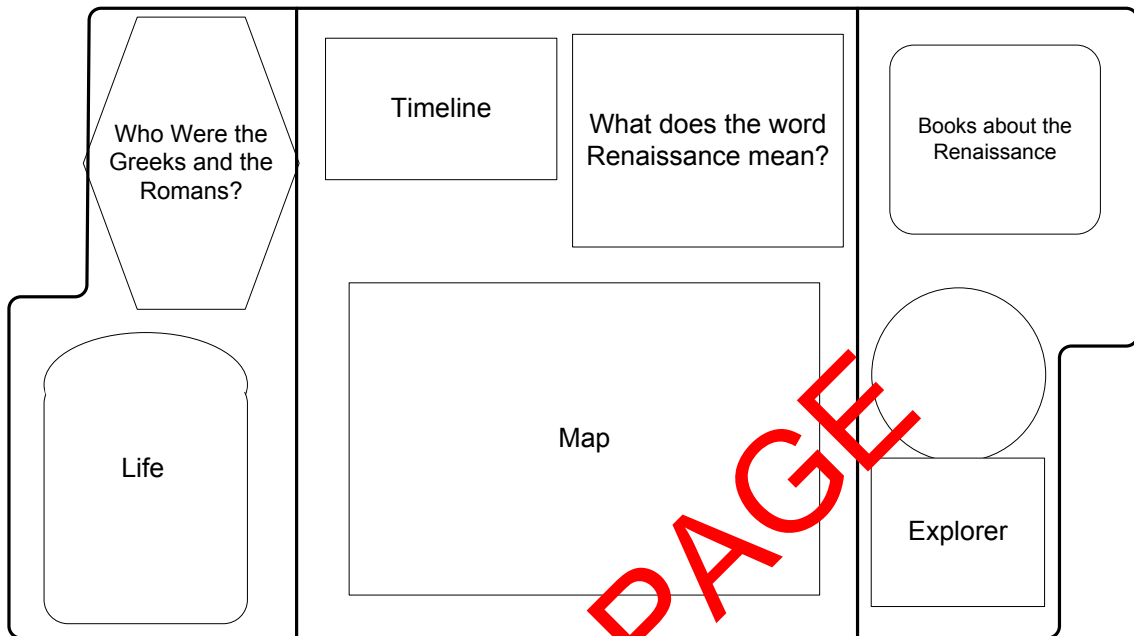
My child has made several lapbooks. Can I store all of the lapbooks together in one place?

Yes! A three-ring binder serves as a great place to keep your lapbooks. This method of storage not only keeps your lapbooks from getting lost but also keeps them neat and readily available to share with dad, grandparents, friends, etc. When you are through sharing your lapbooks, just place the three-ring binder back on your bookshelf! Below are step-by-step directions of how to prepare each lapbook to be placed in a three-ring binder.

Close the lapbook. Measure a piece of duct tape that is as long as the lapbook. Place the edge of the duct tape on the top edge of the lapbook. Then fold the duct tape over so that it can be placed on the bottom edge. Make sure to leave enough duct tape sticking out from the edges to punch three holes. Be careful when punching the holes that you do not punch the holes in the folder. If you do, that's okay. Then place in three-ring binder. Depending on the size of your three-ring binder, you can store many lapbooks in it.



Folder 1



Folder 2

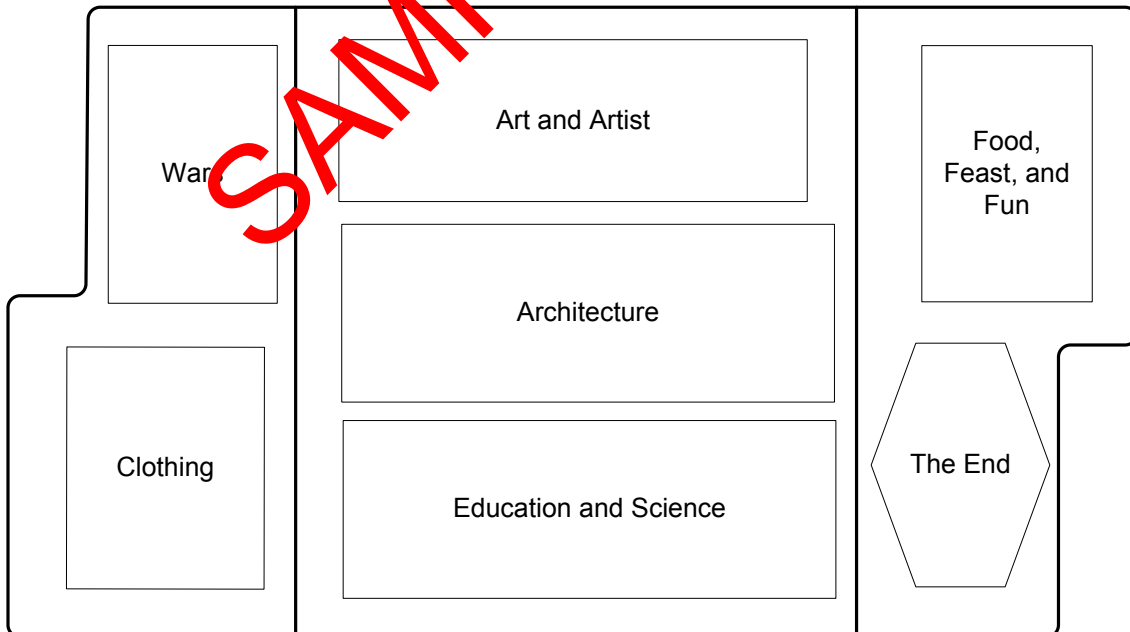


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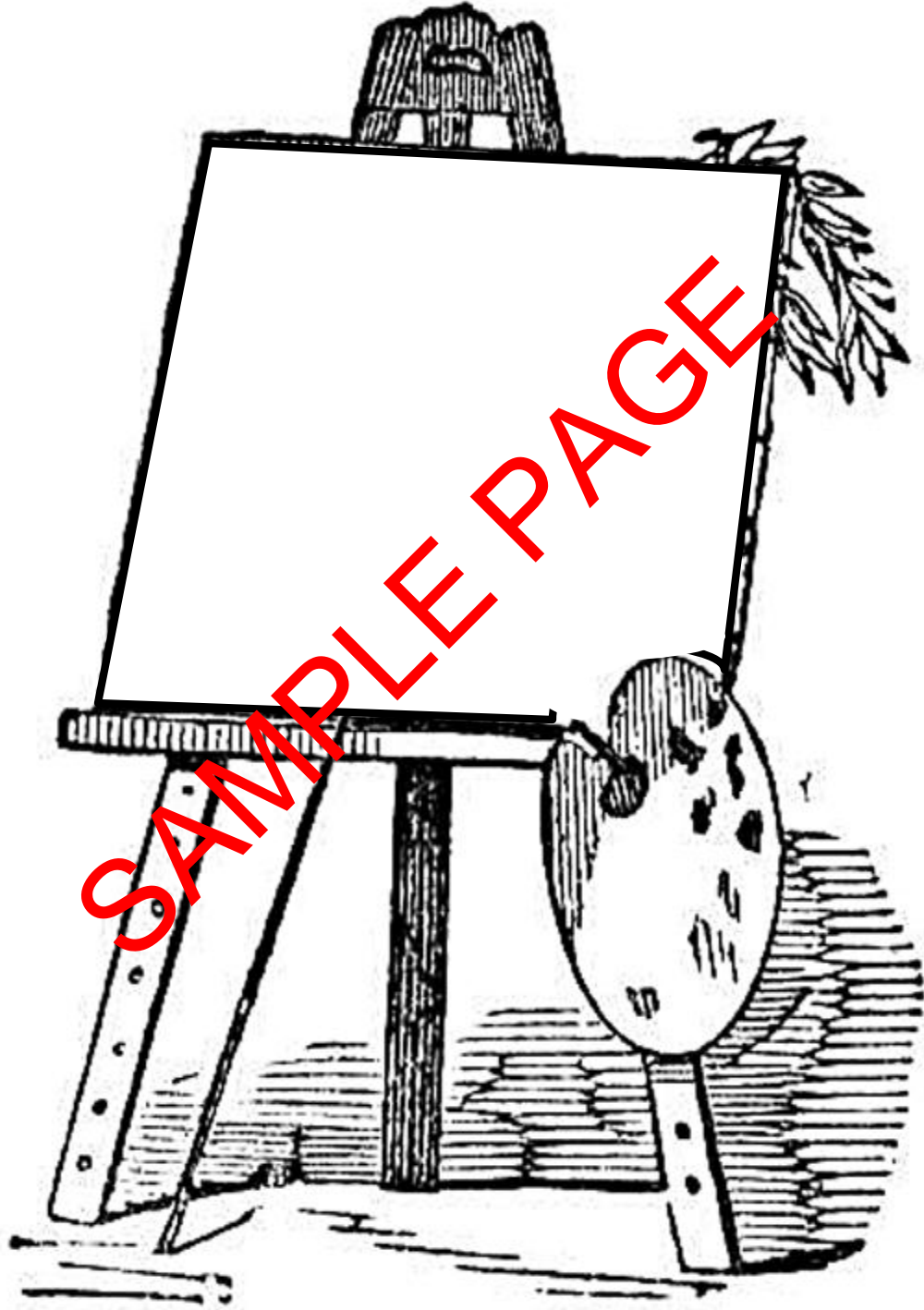
Fair, Fun, and Food

Final Thoughts



Cut on dotted line. Glue to the front of your folder.
Draw your own masterpiece on the easel.

Renaissance Lapbook



What was the Renaissance?

Ever heard Mom say, “I wish you could be my baby again?” I would look silly saying that to my older sons, who are married and have sons of their own! But with such fond memories, I do sometimes wish...

Well, did you know that such a thing happened in Europe’s history? Yes, the “Renaissance” was the time period (roughly A.D. 1400-1600) just *after* the Middle Ages, when many people wished to rebirth the ancient Greek and Roman ideas from *before* the Middle Ages. (See why they were labeled the *Middle Ages*?)

Hey, that last paragraph was quite an info-blast. Let’s make sure everyone has the picture, because the Renaissance was much more than velvet doublets, rattling swords, sweeping gowns, swashbuckling sailors, and great artists. Indeed, the Renaissance won’t make sense until you understand what came *before* it. So, let’s dig in!

We mentioned that the Renaissance was a desire to *rebirth* the ideas of the earlier Greeks and Romans. Do you know those folks? Even if very young, you may be familiar with the Romans, because the Lord Jesus was born into the Roman Empire. These Romans (like the Greeks before them) believed in countless gods...which they had made up! Their stories (myths) about these gods revealed them to be merely exaggerated humans: taller, stronger, swankier figures that connived, cheated, stole, fought, and avenged on a grander scale.

You can imagine that with such “human” gods, the ancient Greeks and Romans could more easily base their lives (and nations) on humanness: human beauty, achievement, intelligence, and strength (*humanism*). Using these gifts—which were actually *God-given*—they tried to be their best, and thus *did* create astounding marvels of architecture, literature, sculpture, math, engineering, philosophy, and science. You can see why the later Renaissance folks were impressed. It is *good* to do our best, but as His capably created servants, not as our own masters. The Greeks and Romans, then—with their human-based culture—had a weak foundation: human limitation, finiteness, selfishness, and wrongness...which attacked, grasped, enslaved, indulged, and eventually collapsed. They *thought* freedom was in *Godlessness*, but without the security of His strength, supremacy, and smarts, they found only disappointment and downfall.

Of course, after Jesus came (midway through the Roman era), things changed! Even though persecuted by many Caesars, the Christian church began to teach and grow; indeed, when decaying Rome fell to the barbarians (thus beginning the Early Middle Ages), it was this church, *not* the Roman system, which survived. This church (there was basically only one, at that time) began leading Europe, in association with budding kings of the Middle Ages. We are making a long story short here, but you already know about the medieval time of knights, castles, caring nuns and monks, and mighty cathedrals.

Sadly, though, as the Middle Ages progressed, the church’s great power, position, and wealth gave opportunity for corruption (as it has for other churches at other times too). Then, instead of holding kings accountable to use their power only in service to God by serving the people, the top church leaders instead often competed with, or even cooperated with, the kings to take yet more land or income from poor common folk. This lack of respect caused the people (the apple of God’s eye) to suffer, and created a pressure for change which helped give rise to the Renaissance.

What was the Renaissance? continued

You see, folks (rightfully) wanted a better life in the 1300s and 1400s, but didn't agree on the source of the problem!

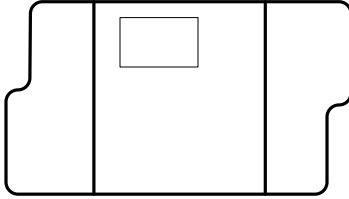
Some people knew that Christianity was still true and good (for individuals *and* nations), even if the church had too often become corrupt. Their solution was to purify (reform) the church, so their movement became the *Reformation*. Knowing that the more people learned of God's truths (for eternal life, government, science, business, etc.), the better things would be, they even made the Bible available to citizens in their own languages. This led to many changes in the church and in Reformation nations (mostly in northern Europe).

At the same time, other Europeans felt that if the church *could* become corrupt, then the problem was not *some* leaders, but Christianity *itself*, or at least its dominance. Why not, they wondered, decide *themselves* how to be happy and focus on their *own* capabilities (without God being so central), as the ancient Greeks and Romans had done? Why not let *humans* be the star of the show, or at least have equal billing? I guess they forgot that the Greek and Roman civilizations collapsed exactly *because* they were humanist; instead, when seeing beautiful Greek and Roman ruins, they desired to rebirth that life (even if it *had* crumbled). This rebirth was the *Renaissance*. Since you're brainiacs, you probably realize (knowing the birth-related words *nativity* and *renatal*) that *Renaissance* means rebirth! Besides, since the Garden of Eden, folks have looked for an excuse to be like God, to declare themselves what is good, happy, and fulfilling. That is just what the Renaissance promised...again!

It was a potent time in history, a big fork in the road! Renaissance folks were *correct* that people were more than serfs (as in the Middle Ages) to be owned like the land and cattle they worked...but they took it too far the other way, by hoping to mix human power as equal to and (eventually) above God's. So, as with most of the arguments between you and your siblings, they had something right, but more wrong. People *are* valuable and capable...but *because* of the King of Kings! Would they accept the *whole* truth, or just the first part? *Let's see!*



Folder 1



Read What was the Renaissance?

Cut out booklet as one piece. Fold the back bottom section up in back and then fold the flaps back and glue to make a pocket. Cut out the timeline strip. Fold and store in pocket.

Directions: Add events to the timeline.

A large diagram showing the assembly of the folder. The folder is a vertical rectangle with a pocket on the left. The pocket contains a booklet with the word "Timeline" written vertically in purple cursive and an illustration of a clock. Below the pocket is a long vertical strip with a timeline. The timeline is a vertical line with labels: 1400-, 1450-, 1500-, 1550-, and 1600-. A large red watermark "SAMPLE PAGE" is overlaid diagonally across the entire assembly.

Hamburge fol

1400-

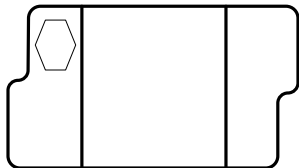
1450-

1500-

1550-

1600-

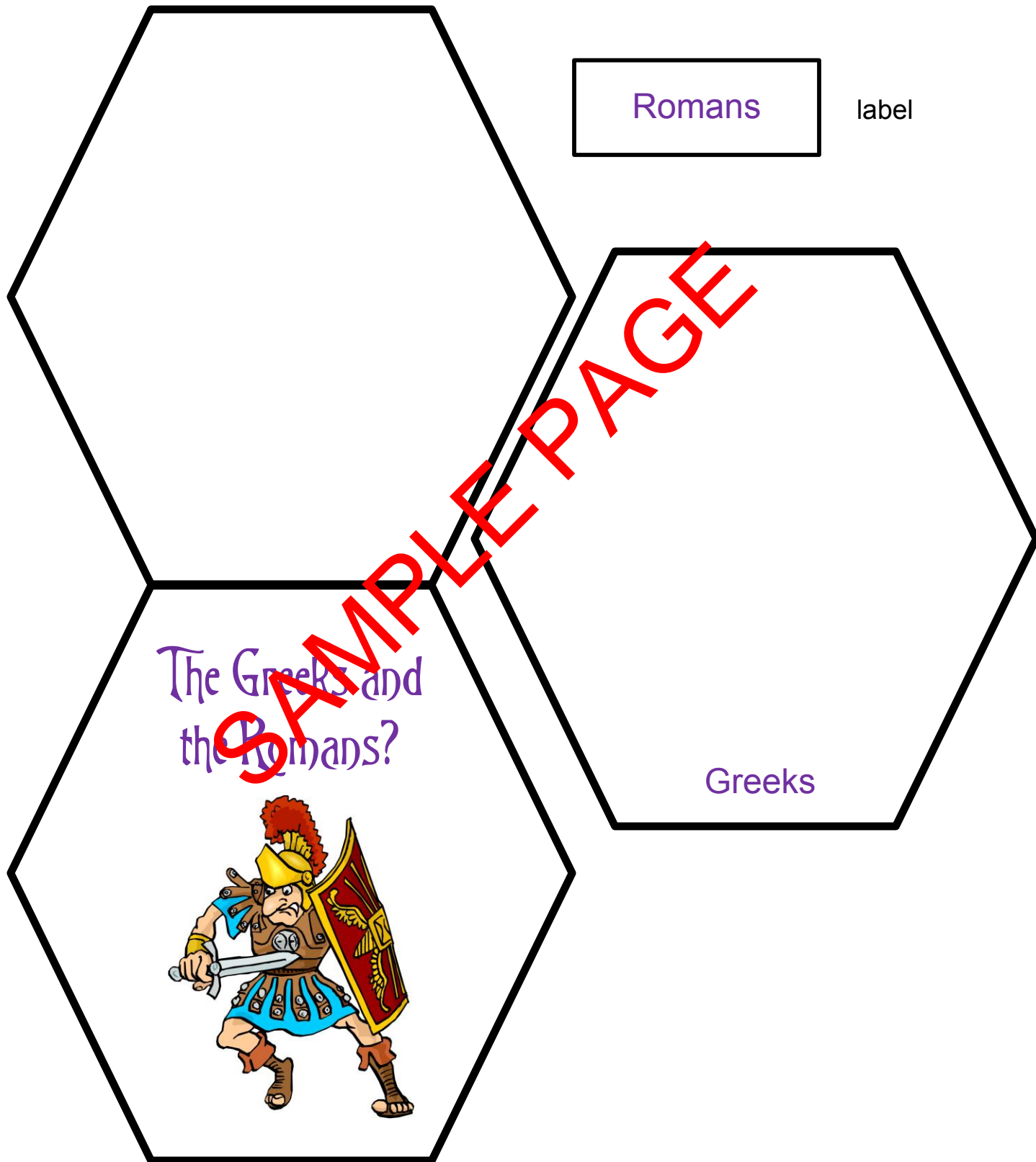
Folder 1



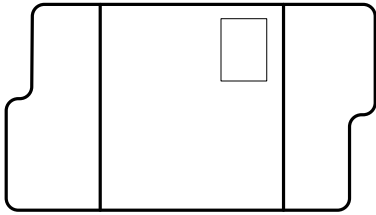
Read What was the Renaissance?

Cut out the large booklet as one piece. Hamburger fold in half. Cut out the smaller piece. Place inside of the folded booklet. Staple at the top. Cut out the label. Glue it to the inside of the last page of the large folded booklet. Glue into lapbook.

Directions: Inside of the booklet, write what you have learned.



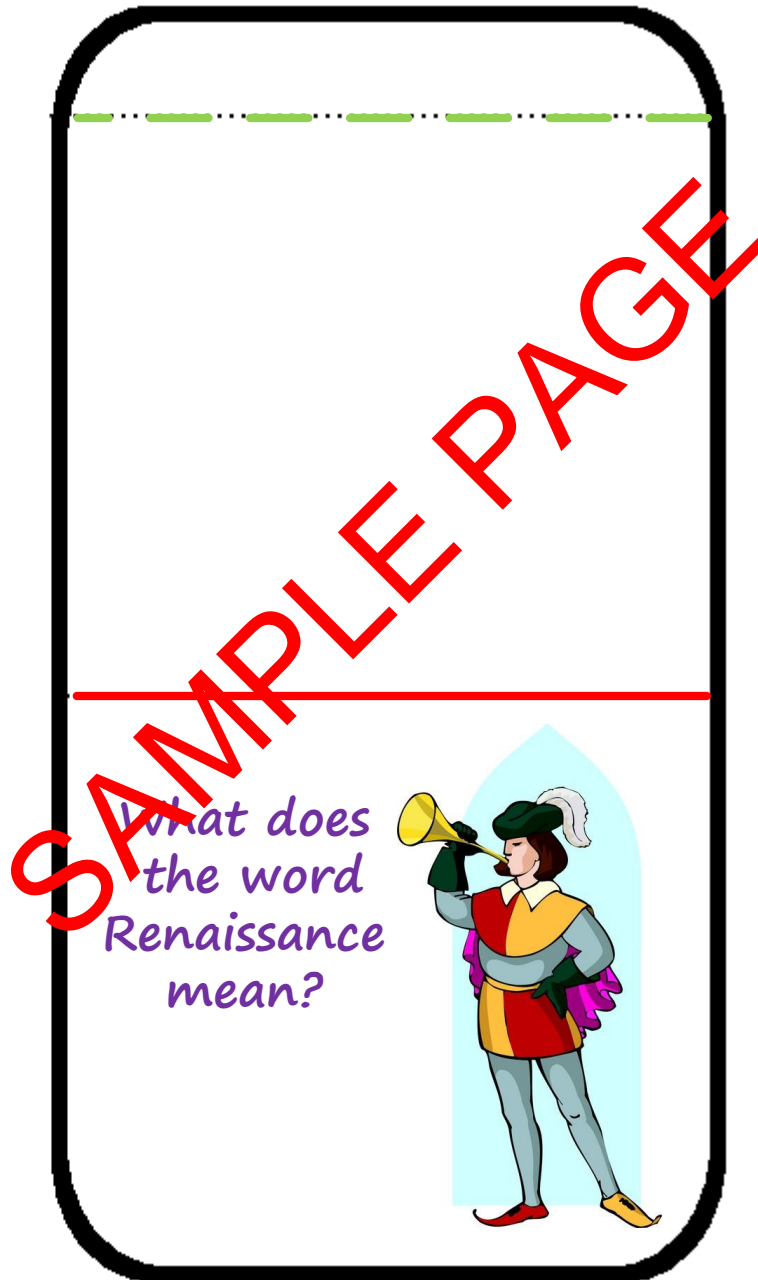
Folder 1



Read What was the Renaissance?

Cut out the booklet as one piece. Hamburger fold on the red line. Fold up the smaller green dotted line like a matchbook. Glue into lapbook.

Directions: Inside of the booklet, write what you have learned.



What was Life Like?

Ah, Renaissance life... In many ways, it was like the medieval (Middle Ages) life before it: dramatic, but stinky (uninspiring bathroom and laundry facilities); closely connected to the land and seasons (subsistence farming); meaningful, but also very raw, especially for the poor. Cooking, harvesting, building, smithing, communicating, and traveling, for example, had changed little for thousands of years. But some new things were afoot!

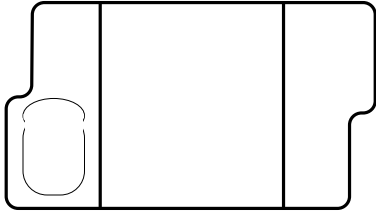
You see, among the forces which ended the Middle Ages was, believe it or not, the Bubonic Plague of the 1300s. In some areas, half of the population perished. Skilled laborers were lost, and replacements were needed. Also dead were lords, sheriffs, and soldiers who had held the serfs. Many thus had opportunity to break the chains of the feudal system (especially in western Europe). Folks could now pursue prospects, or earn money with special skills. Craftsmen and merchants gathered in small towns, which grew in number and influence. This important movement—the budding of a middle class in towns—blossomed further as the Middle Ages gave way to the Renaissance.

So, in the Renaissance, you will see more town life. Little bakeries, carpentries, and metal shops were built. People honed skills, earned reputations, built *guilds* to give their group a voice, and increased earnings. Trade between towns and regions grew stronger, allowing leading merchants to prosper (and gain power).

Please don't misunderstand: even with the changes we discussed earlier, the Catholic church (it was *Catholic*, not just *catholic*—Latin for *universal*—once the Reformation created a second Christian church) was *still* a huge and beloved part of Renaissance life. People were christened, married, and laid to rest at church, nuns and monks still served the needy, and the greatest Renaissance artists built and decorated cathedrals (although some project sponsors confused their own glory with God's). But leading “thinkers”—apparently afraid to abandon church altogether—“pushed” God to the side where He wouldn't “interfere” with human plans, seeing Him instead as an elegant tradition, harmless figurehead, or dottering “grandfather” uninvolved in the muscle-bound vibrancy of daily doings. With a separation between “religion” and “real life,” their glorified humanity could rule the day. Each generation further widened the separation, hoping to find more “freedom” and “splendor,” but eventually, the “thinkers” would see that they had separated human life from meaning and value. This led to destructive “isms” (and still does), but we won't dig into that here. Let's close by saying that there *was* a Counter-Reformation which sought to purify the Renaissance church, but whenever it allowed corruption in itself or kings, people moved further away.

See the crazy cacophony of Renaissance life? The desperately poor were still desperately poor, but there was a bit more opportunity in the middle for craftsmen, traders, and artists of the bustling towns and growing cities, all while resplendent kings and cardinals held sway, waged wars, and looked glamorous!

Folder 1



Read What was Life Like?

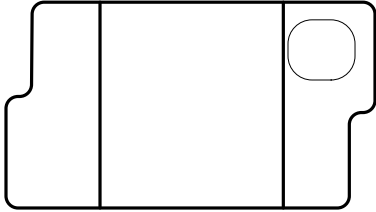
Cut out the booklet. Glue into lapbook.

Directions: On the booklet, write what you have learned about life during the Renaissance period.

Renaissance Life

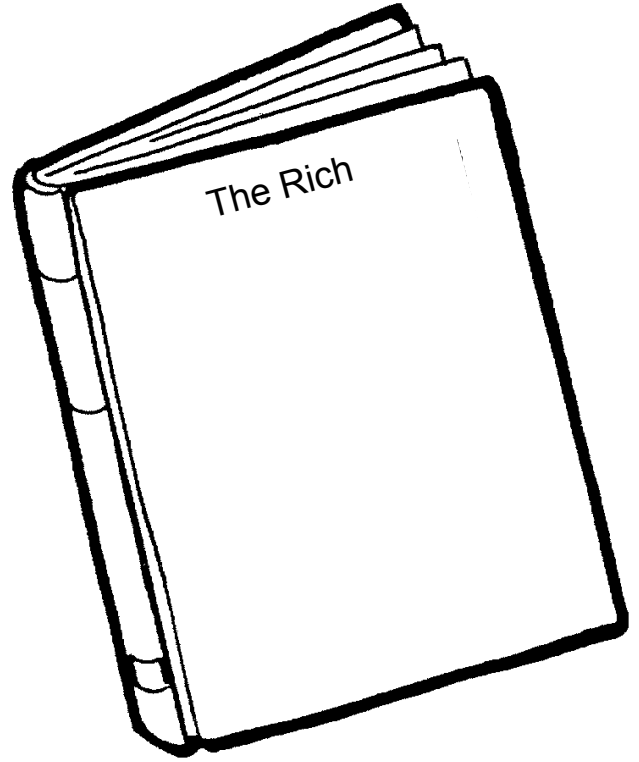
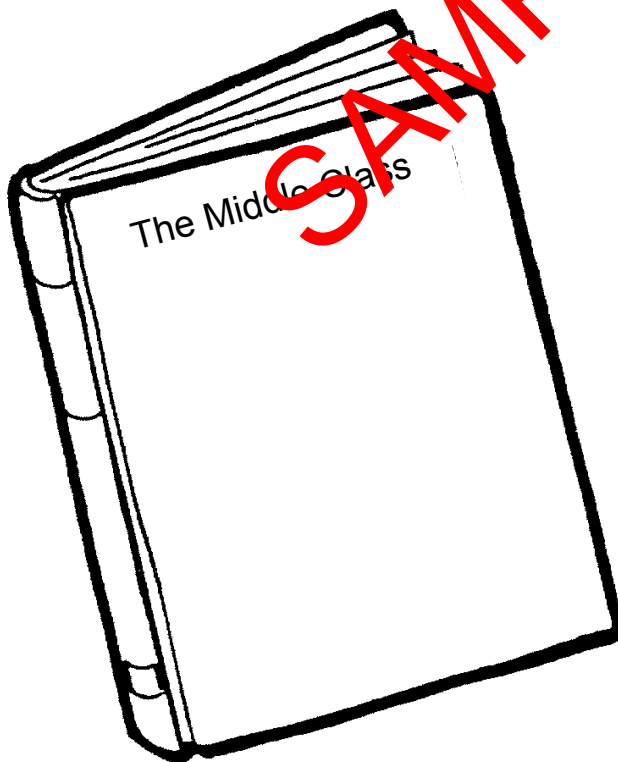
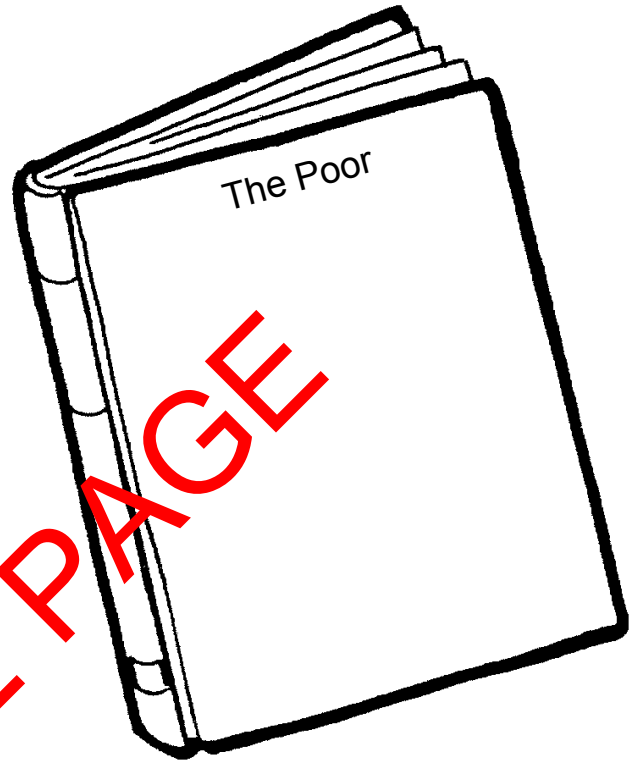
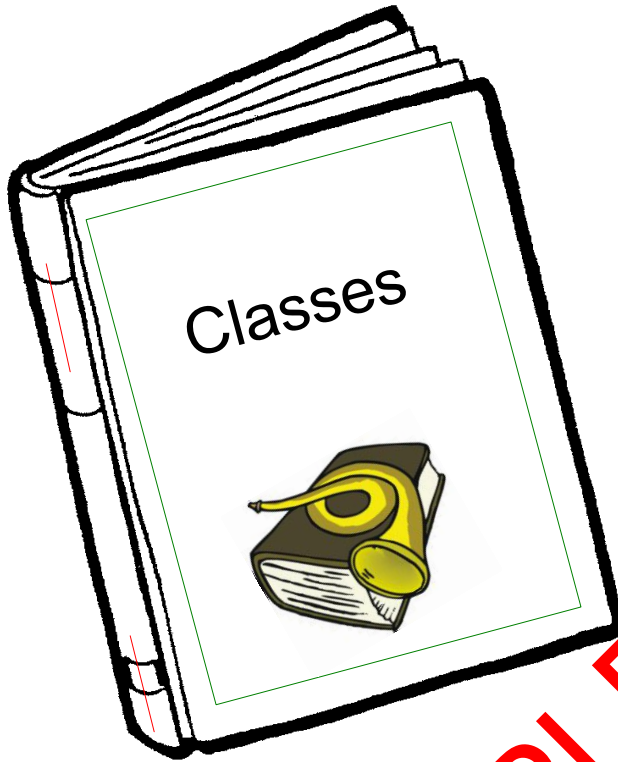
SAMPLE PAGE

Folder 1



Cut out each piece on this page. Stack on top of each other and staple at the top. Glue into lapbook.

Directions: On each booklet, describe the different classes of people during the Renaissance.



SAMPLE PAGE