

Renaissance Faire Project Kit

Congratulations! You're going to the Renaissance Faire! Use these project ideas to enrich your educational experience. Read through them before you go to make sure you understand the terms and concepts, and to help you determine if you want to expand upon any of them. **You'll find fun facts and printable worksheets at the end of this packet.**

a- elementary level activity b- middle school level activity c- high school level activity

Language Arts

Explore acting as a language! Pick one actor or actress to watch carefully. Write down how their actions, words, dance, and other body language helps tell their story. Explain how your own actions, words, and body language communicate to others how you are feeling. Can you affect others without using words? Can the way you act change the way others see you?

- a. Draw a picture or write a paragraph. Talk about it.
- b. Write a short essay. Talk about it.
- c. Write a short essay, talk about it, and write a quick letter of appreciation to give to the actor/actress you studied.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil, paper for letter

Submission: A copy of your writings/drawing, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

Applied Math

How much money does the Ren Faire make? They average \$25 per ticket sold. How many people are at the faire? How many days does it run for? There are several ways to estimate this: ask someone who works there, find out the area of the faire and divide it into representative areas that you can count and multiply, or find the information on the internet. How much does they make in a day? During the entire season? Do they make extra money by selling products, food, or activities?

- a. Talk about the math and make verbal estimates with your teacher. Write down your math.
- b. Do the calculations on your own and write everything down. Talk about expenses and how those affect the show's profit.
- c. Do the calculations, write it down, and ask more questions to determine the Ren Faire's estimated costs (don't forget staff, the land lease, utilities, etc.). Estimate gross and net incomes per day, and then for the entire season. Run a hypothetical model to see how the numbers change if attendance or costs decline or increase.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil, calculator or smartphone (optional)

Submission: Your calculations, estimations, and conclusions, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

Science

While science may have looked differently 500 years ago, there was still a lot of it! Understanding the physics of jousting and sword fighting, the chemistry of blacksmithing, metallurgy, and alchemy, and the biology of current medical trends were all vital parts of life in the Renaissance.

- a. Find examples of science and draw a picture or write a short paragraph about it.
- b. Find an example of biology at the faire. Write a brief paragraph or draw pictures about what you found and its importance.
- c. Find an example of chemistry at the faire. Write a short essay about what you saw and its importance to Renaissance life. Include how modern science has altered our understanding of that concept.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil

Submission: A copy of your drawings, diagrams, maps, or designs, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

Social Studies

The Renaissance Faire takes you back into the Renaissance time period! Take time to look around at your surroundings. What things are from that period? What things are modern things used to make the experience more enjoyable? What would it be like to live back then? What would be the difficulties and joys of that kind of life? What would you miss most about your life if you were transported back to medieval times?

- a. Pick a few things you see that are definitely not modern. Discuss what they are and what they were used for. Draw a picture or write a paragraph describing what you saw.
- b. Research a few items you might see faire and then look for them. How were they used? How many did you see? What is our modern-day equivalent? Write a short essay describing these things and the similarities and differences they have with equivalent modern-day items.
- c. Take a deeper look into Renaissance times. Using your own research and things you saw and learned at the faire, write an essay detailing what a normal day would look like for someone who lived back then. You can pick anyone from any class (royalty, nobles, vassals/knights, or serfs/peasants). If your person were living today, what would their day look like?

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil

Submission: A copy of your writings/drawings, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

FUN FACTS

- The Renaissance is a period from the 14th to the 17th century, considered the bridge between the Middle Ages and Modern history. It started as a cultural movement in Italy in the Late Medieval period and later spread to the rest of Europe.
- The invention of the Gutenberg printing press in 1450 is a milestone which marks the beginning of the Renaissance. Ideas were able to be spread quicker and farther because of the printing press. It allowed communication to occur through all of Europe.
- The Renaissance was a time of great beauty and art. Artists like Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo created great works of art during this time. Writers like William Shakespeare were producing their own masterpieces.
- It was also a time of creativity, imagination and curiosity. The Renaissance was the age of exploration. The voyages of many great explorers like Columbus, Vespucci, Ponce de Leon, Polo, De Soto and Balboa occurred during the Renaissance.
- The word 'renaissance' is a French word which means 'rebirth'. The people credited with beginning the Renaissance were trying to recreate the classical models of Ancient Greek and Rome.
- At the beginning of the Renaissance, Italy was the center of world culture. Genoa, Milan, Venice, Rome, Verona and Florence were economic, trade and financial leaders for Europe.
- As the Renaissance progressed, there was a shift from Aristotelian natural philosophy to scientific method based on inductive reasoning. This led to scientists challenging previously held beliefs resulting in major advancements in science. The most important of these was the heliocentric model of the solar system proposed by Polish astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus. It led to the Copernican Revolution which lasted for more than a century till Sir Isaac Newton removed the last doubts about the validity of the heliocentric model. Apart from Copernicus, other major scientists of the Renaissance include Galileo Galilei and Johannes Kepler.
- Michaelangelo and DaVinci became rivals when Michelangelo mocked DaVinci for not finishing a bronze statue of a horse in a group of their peers. DaVinci generally received all of the public praise while Michelangelo worked hard and long hours to produce his masterpieces. They refused to collaborate with each other, even relishing each other's' failures. So sad!

Renaissance Faire

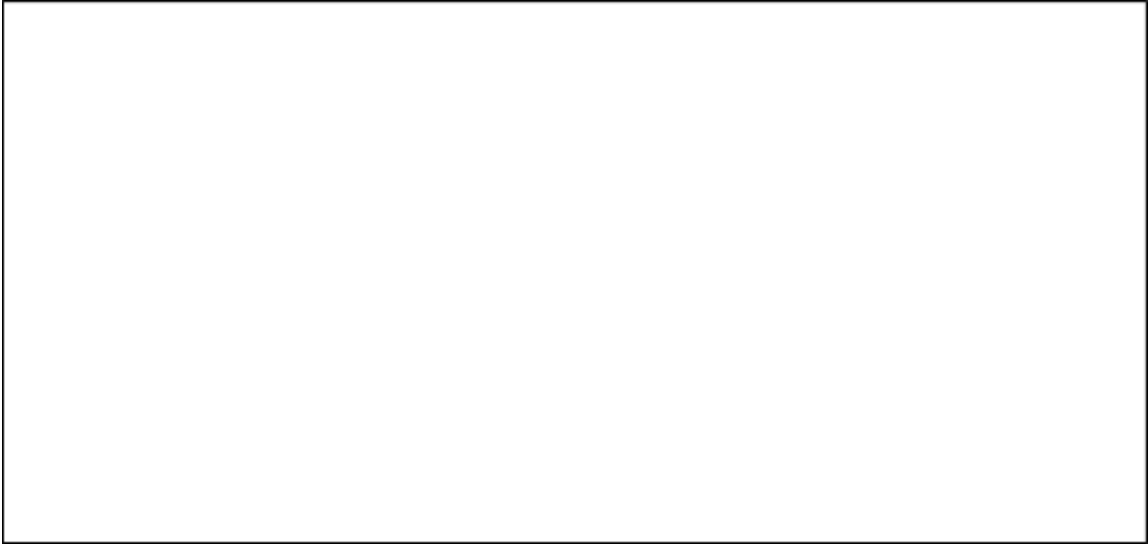
1. Draw a picture of your character at the faire.



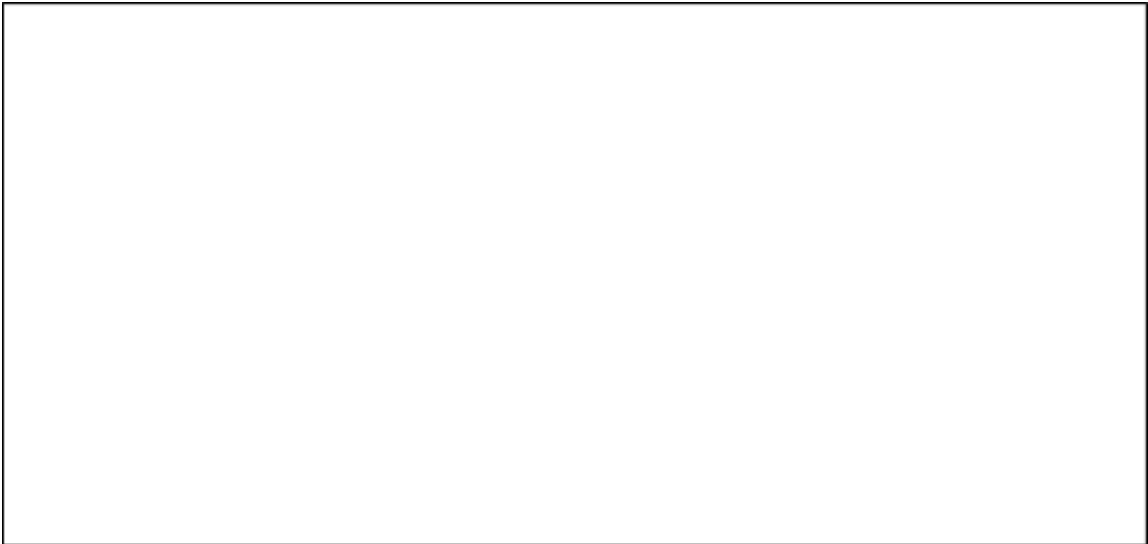
2. Describe your favorite part of the faire.

3. What is one new thing you learned about the Renaissance?

4. Draw or describe one example of Renaissance life you saw.



5. Describe or draw some of the food eaten during that time.



6. Which was your favorite event or activity at the faire?
