



RENAISSANCE (1300-1500s)

*CREATION, A SCENE PAINTED BY
MICHELANGELO IN THE SISTINE CHAPEL*

Themes in the Renaissance

1. rejection of much of the culture of the Middle Ages
 - a. looked upon as a period of ignorance
 - b. looked to classical Greece and Athens as cultural high points
2. to the sources (*ad fontes*)

The study of ancient Greek and Latin texts, instead of writers during the Middle Ages who had studied them
3. humanism
 - a. focus on the human body and the human person
 - i. instead of divine
 - ii. used in painting, art, literature of all kinds
 - b. abandoning scholastic philosophy
4. use of national languages rather than Latin
 - a. Petrarch's Italian poems from 1300s
 - b. Macchiavelli's *The Prince*
5. aided by two historical events
 - a. development of the printing press (Gutenberg, 1450)
 - b. influx of many Greeks with manuscripts fleeing Constantinople being over-run by the Turks in 1453