

# THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE

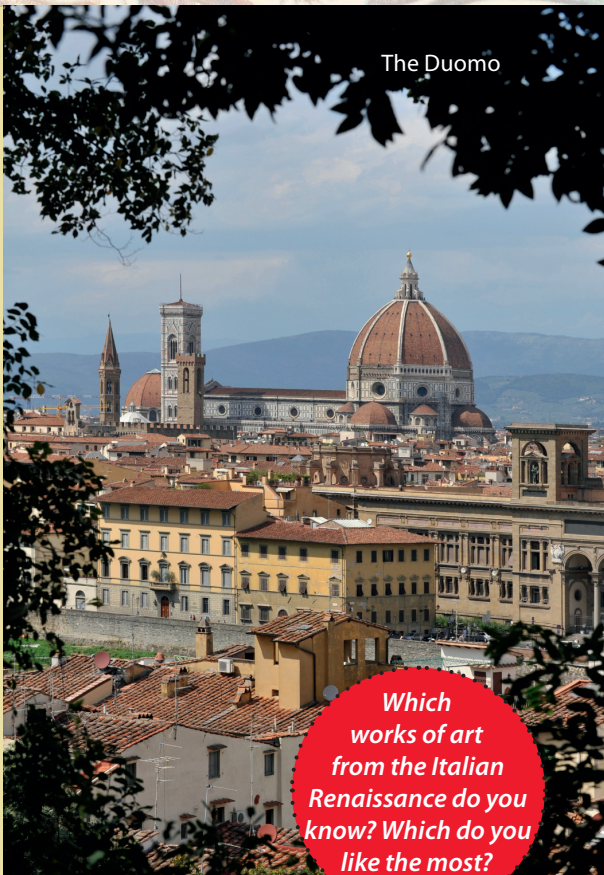
AJ and Daniel don't have time for sightseeing, but every year millions of tourists come to Italy to see its famous buildings, paintings and sculptures. Many of the most famous ones are from the time of the Renaissance (1400-1600). During the Renaissance, there were many important changes across Europe in art, science and other areas. The word renaissance means 'rebirth' (born again).

## ARCHITECTURE

Renaissance Architects used ideas and styles of the ancient Greeks and Romans. At the same time they explored new ideas in architecture. Two famous Italian Renaissance architects are **Filippo Brunelleschi** and **Donato Bramante**. Brunelleschi was the designer of the *Duomo*, a church building in Florence, one of the most beautiful buildings in the world. Bramante designed St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and many other wonderful buildings.

What do these words mean?

You can use a dictionary.  
**architect / architecture**  
**ancient ceiling sculpture**  
**helicopter**



The Duomo

Which works of art from the Italian Renaissance do you know? Which do you like the most?

## ART

Before the Renaissance, most art was about religion. During the Renaissance, the people in the paintings became more important. Renaissance painters also began to paint pictures of stories from Ancient Greece and Rome and other subjects. Two of the greatest artists of the Italian Renaissance were Michelangelo and Raphael.

### Michelangelo

One of Michelangelo's greatest works was the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome. It covers 930m<sup>2</sup> and Michelangelo filled it with hundreds of people from the Bible. He had to work eighteen metres above the floor.

### Raphael

Raphael worked with Bramante in Rome and many of his paintings are in the Vatican.



Detail from The Sistine Chapel

### Leonardo da Vinci – Renaissance man

Da Vinci painted some of the most famous paintings in the world, including the *Mona Lisa*. But da Vinci wasn't only an artist, he was interested in many different subjects. Some of his drawings show his ideas for amazing machines that were far ahead of his time, such as a helicopter.



Da Vinci's helicopter drawing

## SCIENCE

Scientists were beginning to explore new ideas and look at the world in new ways. For example, **Galileo Galilei** found proof that the Earth travels around the sun.

