Renaissance in Northern Europe

Directions: Write a definition for each term below, and then write a sentence using the word (underline the word in your sentence).

- secular

Directions: Create two difficult and meaningful questions about each key idea listed under teacher information in the right-hand column. Write your question in the left-hand column right across from the teacher information. Make sure to underline the answer to your question. Each question and its answer should be written in a different color.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student-generated questions (left-hand side)</th>
<th>Teacher information (right-hand side)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1. Renaissance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A) The Renaissance began in the south of Europe in the Italian city-states in 1300, and then it spread to the northern part of Europe starting in the late 1400’s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>B) Flanders is a place that is now a part of the countries of France and Belgium. In Flanders around 1530 there was a very successful artist born named Pieter Brueghel. He’s best known for his paintings of peasants. His art is a fine example of the type of art in the Renaissance. The people have expression on their face; follow the theory of realism; and show perspective. Like the Italian Renaissance artists Brueghel painted people as they really were, and such honesty makes his paintings sparkle with life and emotion.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

II. SPREAD OF IDEAS

A) How did the ideas of the Renaissance move from Italy to countries such as France, Germany, England, and Spain? It spread with trade and travelers, by word of mouth and by books. Also the monarchs of Europe embraced and supported Renaissance ideas.

B) Italian businessmen (in the business of trade) had offices in cities throughout Europe, and they lived in the Renaissance style no matter where they were while trading through out Europe. Other Europeans began to notice and take interest in the Italians’ emphasis on wealth, beauty, and personal achievement. Other Europeans also traveled to Italy. They came to see Ancient Roman ruins. Scholars came to see the great library at the Vatican in Rome (this was the place the Catholic Pope called home). Brueghel and other artists came to Italy to study art.

C) Renaissance ideas also spread by way of the printed word. Between 1438 and 1454 Johannes Gutenberg (Goot en burg), a German, invented movable type printing press. Now books could be printed quickly with machines and not hand-written by people like Monks (one book at a time).

D) Books were now cheaper to buy, and many more could be made. The printing presses printed everything from the Bible to Greek and Roman classics. The literacy (ability to read and write) rate grew as the interest in learning grew. Book trading became a major part of the trade fairs. Churches and universities, and also individuals bought books printed in many languages. Works by classical and humanist writers were translated and circulated all over the European continent.
E) As humanism spread the monarchs in their royal courts of northern Europe (like France and England) began to develop an interest in learning and the arts. Kings and queens supported the humanist scholars and artists. King Francis I of France brought Leonardo da Vinci and many other Italian artists and scholars to his court. French writer and physician Francois Rabelais writes, “…The world now is full of scholarly men, learned teachers and ample (full) libraries.”

III. IDEAS AND IDEALS
A) The Renaissance humanism of northern Europe didn’t just copy exactly what the Italian humanists had done, but the Northern Renaissance humanism had a character that was unique and different in some ways from the humanism of the Italian Renaissance. This was because that feudalism had been stronger during the Middle Ages in northern Europe than it had been in Italy. So, at the end of the Middle ages the people in northern Europe with the most money and power were those lords or nobles and royalty. So, in the north during the Renaissance the nobles (lords) became the patrons (supporters) of the arts; where as, in Italy it had been the patrician families. So, the Renaissance in northern Europe focused on the royal courts instead of the homes of great families.

B) Northern humanism also differed from Italian humanism in the role of the church. Northern Europe had fewer large towns to act as cultural centers, so the church played a larger, and more active role in the northern culture. Northern humanists, like the Italians, valued secular (or nonreligious ideas) like individual achievement and progress. Northern Europeans also emphasized the importance of Spiritual life though. Northern humanists then studied more than the philosophy and literature of ancient Greece and Rome. Students also learned Greek and Hebrew so they could read ancient Bibles.

C) As northern Europeans began to take on the ideas of humanism, some began to question the way the church leaders interpreted the Bible. Humanists thought church leaders put too much emphasis on ceremony and ritual. One such scholar was Desiderius Erasmus, a Dutch priest and 16th century humanist, wanted to reform the church. Erasmus traveled across Europe and wrote dozens of books.

IV. ACHIEVEMENTS
A) Many northern artists expressed religious themes in their works, but they began to represent both people and nature more realistically. Dutch artist Jan van Eyck is a northern artist who painted with this realism. Realism was also important to humanist writers of northern Europe. They wrote about religion, politics, and the behavior of their fellow human beings. Sir Thomas More was an English statesman, scholar, author and a friend of Erasmus, and he proposed that all men should be treated equal. His famous book called Utopia, described a society in which all men are equal and everyone works together to achieve happiness. This same theme of tolerance and equality was continued in the writings of Michel de Montaigne, a French writer who felt that no man should be put to death for his beliefs.

B) Some Renaissance writers tried to entertain as well as educate their audiences. William Shakespeare, born in England in 1564, was a poet, an actor, and a master playwright. Shakespeare’s characters are full of life, wit, and passion. They reveal strengths and weaknesses of people from all walks of life.