

# Creating Context Mural

**Subject:** English

**Grade Level:** 10, World Literature

**Rationale/Purpose:** Students will understand the historical, political, religious, and cultural context of the Renaissance in Europe before they read Bertolt Brecht's Galileo.

**Materials:**

- Access to Internet reference sources (Library/lab)
- Library reference works (specifically the Catholic Encyclopedia)
- 3x5 cards, 5 colors, names or subjects supplied from subsequent list
- Mural paper (roll of butcher paper), tape

**Lesson Duration:**

One 50-minute class period and one 90-minute block period (or 2 additional 50-minute periods)

**Objectives: English II - 110.43**

- (6A) expand vocabulary through reading, listening, discussing
- (6B) rely on context to determine meaning
- (6E) use reference material
- (7A) establish a purpose for reading
- (7E) analyze for cause/effect, chronological ordering
- (7F) produce summaries of text by identifying main ideas, supporting details
- (7G) draw inferences, conclusions, generalizations and predictions
- (7H) skimming, scanning, note taking, outlining
- (8A) read for entertainment, understanding, exploration
- (12A) analyzing characteristics of text
- (12B) evaluate credibility of sources
- (13B) locate appropriate print and non-print information
- (13D) adapt researched materials for presentation
- (15A) listen and appropriately respond to presentations of peers
- (16A - D) speak responsibly and effectively
- (16C) prepare, organize, and present a clear message
- (16F) make relevant contribution to discussions
- (21B) use a variety of media in communicating & presenting a message
- (21 E) create, present, and test a project

**Activity:**

Students will collectively create a mural timeline of the Renaissance based on individual directed research.

Step 1: Create 5 colors of cards, individual colors to stand for the 5 categories of information, labeled with a subject.\*

Step 2: Hand out cards randomly, one per student.

Step 3: Hand out Directions to Students.\*\* Explain that the name/subject on the card is to be researched by the student during the class period. Finish for homework whatever cannot be done in class.

Step 4: Source List:\*\*\*

- Point out Catholic Encyclopedia as a likely source.
- Post a list of websites likely to be helpful
- Their own World History book is a likely source, as well as class notes.

Step 6: Class period 2 – sit at tables with color/subject groups

Step 7: Post mural paper.\*\*\*\*

Step 8: Make presentations, 2-3 minutes each, and then post card in the appropriate place on the mural timeline.

**Modification:**

A student may compile all information into an outline form for dissemination to the entire class. (extra credit project)

Given more research time, students may also be required to find an image (3x5) to place on the mural timeline with their information card.

**Student Product:**

Students will collectively create a mural timeline of the European Renaissance based on individual directed research.

**Closure:**

Draw students' attention throughout and at the end to the visual representation of cause and effect. Place the life and work of Galileo into the visual context of the period and its forces.

**Assessment or evaluation:**

Grade cards and presentations on timelines, thoroughness of overview, analysis of important elements and correct citations.

This information may also be covered in the end-of-unit test over Galileo and the period.

**Extension:**

This activity provides the backdrop for Galileo, by Bertolt Brecht, to be read by the entire class.

**Activity by:**

Paula Priour

St. Michael's Academy

Austin, Texas

## **\*Subject List**

### **Religion**

Protestant Reformation  
Inquisition  
Henry VIII  
Thomas More  
Martin Luther  
John Calvin

### **Literature**

William Shakespeare  
Dante Alighieri  
Niccolo Machiavelli  
Humanists  
Petrarch  
Miguel de Cervantes

### **Art/Architecture/Music**

Michaelangelo  
Rafael  
Leonardo DaVinci  
Albrecht Durer  
Filippo Brunelleschi  
Michael Praetorius

### **Science/Industry**

Johann Gutenberg  
Galileo Galilei  
Isaac Newton  
Nicolas Copernicus  
Johannes Kepler  
Alchemy

### **Geo-Political**

Spain & Portugal (Ferdinand & Isabella)  
England (Henry VIII, Elizabeth I)  
France  
Italy (including Vatican)  
Germany  
The Plague

## **\*\*Directions to students:**

1. Put your name on your card. Break into groups according to the color of your card.
2. Research the topic on your card. You must use at least 2 sources, one print and one Internet. (See list of suggestions)
3. On one side of the card make brief notes from which you will do a 2-3 minute presentation of your topic. On the other side of the card, cite your sources.
4. After you have presented, place your card appropriately on the timeline mural.
5. If you have found a visual image to correspond with your card, place it on the timeline mural with your card.

## **\*\*\*Source list**

The following source list is a compilation of useful sites and references. Students are not limited to these sites, but should check them first. Students are required to cite at least two sources, one print and one Internet.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Renaissance>

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook1x.html>

[http://www.ucalgary.ca/applied\\_history/tutor/eurvoya](http://www.ucalgary.ca/applied_history/tutor/eurvoya) (exploration)

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/science/sciencesbook.html#Scientific%20Revolution> (science)

<http://www.newadvent.org> (Catholic encyclopedia online)

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook1y.html> (The Reformation)

<http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/exhibitions/permanent/gutenberg>

Catholic Encyclopedia and other print encyclopedias from library reference section  
World History book