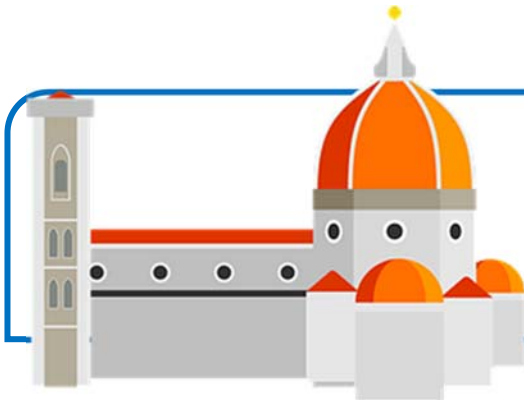


Name _____



Renaissance Routes

Directions: Read the short text about Renaissance Italy. Then answer the critical thinking questions in complete sentences.

Florence And Venice in The Renaissance

During the Renaissance, two Italian cities played especially important roles because of their geography. **Florence** was located along inland trade routes that connected northern and southern parts of the Italian peninsula. Its position allowed merchants to exchange goods, ideas, and scientific knowledge. As wealth increased, powerful families supported artists and scholars, helping Florence grow into a major center of learning and creativity.

Venice, on the other hand, rose to prominence because it was built on a series of islands in the northern Adriatic Sea. This location helped the city control trade between Europe and regions farther east. Venetian ships carried spices, textiles, and metals across long-distance sea routes. Wealth from this trade supported artists, architects, and explorers, making Venice a major cultural force during the Renaissance.

Both cities show how geography can shape culture. Florence's inland position encouraged intellectual exchange, while Venice's coastal access fueled global trade. Together they helped spread Renaissance ideas throughout Europe.

1. How did Florence's inland location help it become an important Renaissance city?
2. Why did Venice's position on the Adriatic Sea give it an advantage in trade?
3. What is one way that geography influenced culture in Florence?
4. What is one way that geography influenced culture in Venice?
5. Based on the text, why are Florence and Venice good examples of how geography can shape history?
6. Which city do you think had the stronger geographic advantage during the Renaissance? Explain your reasoning using evidence from the text.