During the Renaissance, all educated people were expected to create art. In fact, the individual strove to master almost every aspect of study. Those who were skilled in many fields were praised as “universal men.” Over time, these people were called “Renaissance Men.”

In a book called The Courtier, Baldassare Castiglione described such a person. According to him, a young man should be charming, witty and well educated. At the same time, he should be a skilled rider, wrestler and swordsman. Finally, he should be bold when confronting an enemy, yet avoid arrogance. According to the Courtier, upper-class women should be educated in the classics and be charming. However, even though they were better educated, they had less power than medieval women.

**Explain: What is a “Renaissance Person?”**

**Leonardo da Vinci**

| 1452-1519 | Italy |

Why is Leonardo Da Vinci considered a Renaissance man? “He was a man of many talents. His sketchbook of inventions proves that he developed ideas for machines still in use today. His most famous work, the Mona Lisa, is the most recognized painting in the world.”

What were some of his inventions (sketches)? “The parachute, the machine gun, the scaling ladder”

**Nicholas Copernicus**

What did Copernicus believe about the solar system?

What 3 incorrect ideas held back astronomy until the 17th century?

**Elizabeth I**

What is the Elizabethan Age?

What role did William Shakespeare play in the Elizabethan Age?

**Sir Thomas Moore**

According to Sir Thomas Moore’s Utopia, how do Utopians live? How was it similar to communism?

**Cervantes**

What is his most important work of literature?

What universal themes of human nature are explored in this book?
Task: Now that you know what a renaissance person is, think of somebody in your own life that you would consider to be a Renaissance person. This person may be a friend or family member or perhaps even a celebrity. Use the space provided below to explain why this person is a "Renaissance" person.