

Medici

Godfathers of the Renaissance

Viewing Guide for *The Medici: Godfathers of the Renaissance* Program 2: “The Magnificent Medici”

Name _____

True/False. Put your answers in the blanks below.

1. _____
 2. _____
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 13. _____
1. All of the artists that the Ninja turtles were named after (Leonardo, Michelangelo, Raphael, Donatello) worked for the Medici family.
 2. The system of patronage used by the Medici family to operate Florence and Tuscany, in which people are personally loyal to a family that looks out for them in return, was similar to the system used by the Mafia to control Southern Italy.
 3. The frescoes in the chapel of the Medici Palace advertised the family’s power.
 4. Lorenzo de Medici ruled Florence through influence rather than by law or elected position.
 5. Lorenzo de Medici married Clarice Orsini because she was beautiful and he was in love with her.
 6. The Pazzi, a rival banking family, tried to have Lorenzo and his sister killed Easter Sunday 1478 in the Florentine cathedral.
 7. The current pope, Pope Sixtus, was in on the plot against the Medici.
 8. Monks hired by the Pazzi killed Guiliano by shooting him to death.
 9. Lorenzo survived, and his supporters hanged the conspirators—including two relatives of the pope—from the government building windows.
 10. The Pazzi were killed or run out of Florence, but Pope Sixtus sent an army against Florence to avenge the death of his relatives.
 11. Lorenzo visited his enemies in Naples alone, bribed them, and defeated the Pope’s attempts to destroy Florence.
 12. When Lorenzo returned to Florence, he was named “Il Magnifico” and asked to take over the government of Florence; he agreed.
 13. For 20 years, the Florentines benefited from Lorenzo’s public generosity, his “spending virtuously” on buildings, art, festivals, and entertainments

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14. Lorenzo established the first art school in Florence.
 15. Botticelli’s painting *La Primavera* (the spring), which was based on classical mythology rather than the Bible, explored new and possibly dangerous artistic ground.
 16. Botticelli’s paintings like *The Birth of Venus* are religious rather than humanistic.
 17. Girolamo Savonarola was a Dominican priest who worked for Lorenzo.
 18. Savonarola believed that nude paintings and non-religious art were evil.
 19. Michelangelo and Botticelli fought against Savonarola.
 20. Eventually Botticelli either changed his mind about what subjects are appropriate for painting or he feared the repercussions his art might bring because he threw some of his own paintings on Savonarola’s “Bonfire of the Vanities.”
 21. When Lorenzo’s banks began to fail, the ‘amici delle amici’ (friends of friends) system of influence began to break down because there weren’t enough personal favors to go around.
 22. When Lorenzo died in 1492, Savonarola forgave him on his deathbed.
 23. After Lorenzo’s death, Savonarola gained control of the city; his bands of “skinhead” teens roamed the city beating up prostitutes, burning homosexuals, and harassing anyone wearing jewelry, makeup, or elaborate clothes as well as anyone still owning dice or cards.
 24. In the “Bonfires of the Vanities,” Savonarola and his followers burned books, makeup, clothes, wigs, art, and jewelry.
 25. Six years after his fundamentalist backlash against the Renaissance and Lorenzo de Medici, Savonarola was excommunicated, tortured, chained, hanged, and burned. Florence had turned against the prophet after suffering years of plague, war, and starvation.