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The dates for the period of history are approximate and reflect the research of the author and editors, who acknowledge that not all historians will agree with them. Ideas to encourage students to put the Italian Renaissance in historical context follow this chronology.

The Italian Renaissance (1400-1550) — Time Line

- 1296–1300** Giotto paints frescoes about St. Francis

- 1314–21** Dante writes the *Divine Comedy*

- 1347–48** Black Death (the plague) sweeps Europe

- c. 1360** Petrarch, an Italian scholar, develops the ideal of humanism

- 1403–4** Lorenzo Ghiberti works on first set of bronze doors for Baptistery in Florence

- c. 1450** The printing press is invented

- 1469–92** Lorenzo de Medici rules Florence

- 1489** Savonarola preaches moral reforms in Florence

- 1492** Columbus discovers America

- 1493–1506** Ancient Roman paintings and sculptures are discovered at Rome

1497	Portuguese explorers reach India
1508–13	Michelangelo paints the Sistine Chapel ceiling
1517	Luther's 95 Theses begin the Reformation
1519–22	Magellan circumnavigates the globe
1527	Emperor Charles V sacks Rome and imprisons the Pope
1564	William Shakespeare and Galileo Galilei are born

Time Line Classroom Activities

1. **Adding to the chronology.** Reproduce a copy of this chronology for your students. Have them add another significant event between several (or selected) entries, and ask them to be prepared to explain why the event was important to understanding the period. As a variation, have students add events from other parts of the world and explain how the event is similar to or different from what was happening during the Renaissance.
2. **Making a classroom time line.** Attach a roll of shelf paper to a bulletin board or wall. Have students draw a time line on the paper and transfer the information from the chronology to the time line. They can then illustrate each event with a drawing.
3. **Linking past to present.** Include the current year (or their birth year) in the chronology or time line, and have students count and record the number of intervening years.
4. **Researching and presenting reports.** Assign news bulletin-type mini-reports on each topic in the chronology and have students deliver the reports as if they were doing a radio broadcast.