

Guided Reading Questions: Chapter 19 – 15th Century Italy

1. What were Cosimo de Medici the Elder's primary concerns for the commission of the Medici Palace in Florence?
2. What is the *Camera Picta*? Who commissioned it? Who painted it? What is represented? What is remarkable about these images?
3. Discuss the ducal Palace at Urbino. Who commissioned it? Who designed it? What were the contributions of the architect at this site? In your discussion, consider the design of the courtyard and the decoration of the private study in the palace's interior.
4. Explain Brunelleschi's design for the Florence Cathedral. Be specific in your explanation.
5. Characterize the style of Masaccio (start to discover him on p. 135). Cite specific works. What technique did he often employ? Did his work have an impact on his contemporaries, as well as on later artists?
6. Discuss the artistic careers of Gentile and Giovanni Bellini (p. 164). Specify individual works; address their location, their style, technique, subject matter, and patronage.
7. Consider the artistic career of the sculptor Donatello (p. 631). Cite specific works. Discuss the subjects he portrayed and the development of his style.
8. Discuss Ghiberti's commission for the Baptistery of Florence. What did he create for this commission? Was it a success? Address his style and technique for this project.
9. Identify a specific commission that drew artists to Rome in the 15th century (p. 647). Name an artist that was part of this commission and describe his contribution to the project.
10. Compare Ghirlandaio's *Nativity and Adoration of the Shepherds* with the *Portinari Altarpiece* by Hugo van der Goes from Flanders. Consider each painter's style and technique. How could you account for their distinctive approaches?
11. Discuss the interpretations for Botticelli's *Primavera* and *Birth of Venus*. Consider the role of the patron in these works.
12. Who were the primary patrons for Italian art in the 15th century? Discuss similarities and differences in their motivations and the types of works commissioned.