


The Italian Renaissance

C. 1400-1600

Italy At This Time c.1400

- ▶ **Italy was not one large nation**
 - ▶ Instead, it was a collection of smaller **city-states** much like Ancient Greece & Rome
 - ▶ Check out the map to the right to see what I mean 
 - ▶ Renaissance lawyers looked to those civilizations for models of how independent city-states should be governed
- ▶ **This renewed interest in the classical world opened Italy up to the exploration of Greek & Roman philosophy, art & science**



Italy At This Time c.1400

▶ **Life in Renaissance Italy**

▶ Class System

- ▶ Aristocracy (Members of Nobility Ruled Most City-States)
- ▶ Merchants (Often the Richest Class Due to the Vastness of Trade – Rulers in Florence & Genoa)
- ▶ Artisans & Artists (Skilled Craftsmen)
- ▶ Town Laborers (Unskilled, Grunt Workers)
- ▶ Country Peasants (Sharecroppers)
- ▶ Slaves (Mostly Females from Mongolia, Russia & Turkey – Domestic Helpers)

▶ Fabrics used for Clothing

- ▶ Silk, Wool, Cotton & Linen
- ▶ Lots of variety

Men of the Italian Renaissance c. 1500

▶ **Doublets**

- ▶ Very popular
- ▶ Varied in lengths

▶ **Jackets**

- ▶ Simple garment
- ▶ Long-sleeved & belted at the waist

▶ **Hose**

- ▶ Leg coverings
- ▶ Either Stitched together as one piece
- ▶ Tied up to doublet as before

▶ **Exaggerated, Large Codpieces**

- ▶ Became universally adopted
- ▶ Most likely to cover embarrassing stains from Syphilis medication

▶ **Shirts**

- ▶ White linen

▶ **Slashing**

- ▶ Decorative slits cut into garment through which the undershirt is pulled through in puffs



SKETCH THESE EXAMPLES ON THE BACK OF YOUR INDEX CARD

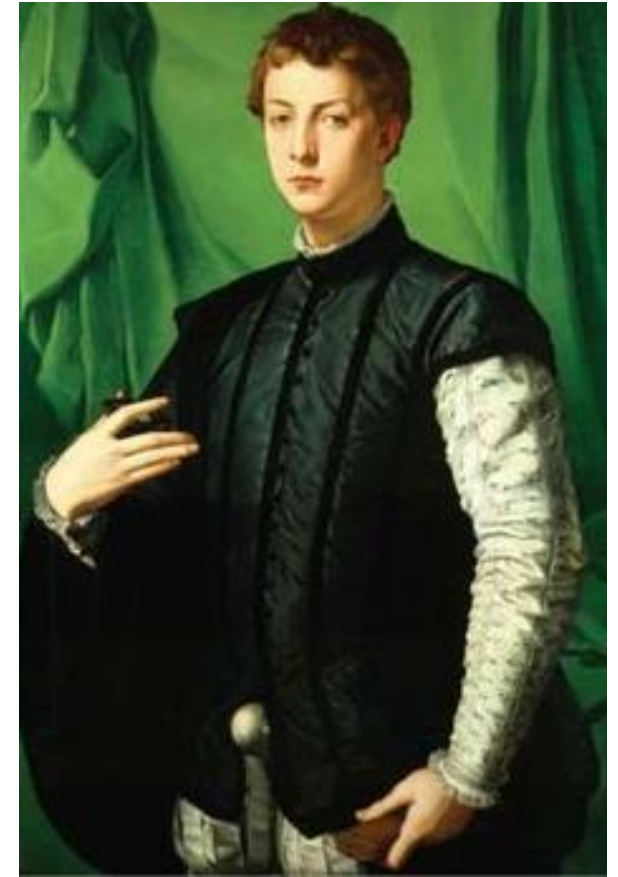
1. Doublet



2. Slashing



3. Slashed Doublet



Women of the Italian Renaissance c. 1500

▶ Bodices

- ▶ Became more rigid like those of Spain at this time
- ▶ Necklines were mostly square, wide & low
- ▶ Sleeves widened; Puffed at top/fitted from above the elbow to the wrist
- ▶ Waistlines changed from straight lines to more of a V-shape due to further influences from Spanish fashions

▶ Shirts

- ▶ White linen
- ▶ Cut high, to show above the neckline of gowns
- ▶ Often embroidered & had small neckline ruffle

▶ Slashing

- ▶ Also popular with women
- ▶ Used to decorate bodices

▶ Hair

- ▶ Wore “token” head cover
 - ▶ Jeweled nets set at the back of the head
 - ▶ Or sheer, small veils
- ▶ Loose curls to either side of face with a bun, long braid or more elaborate arrangements in back

▶ Headdress

- ▶ Turbans became very popular
 - ▶ This Turkish style was adopted due to trade with the Turks of the Ottoman Empire
- ▶ Ferroniere was a chain or band of metal/pearls worn across the forehead
 - ▶ Had a jeweled decoration at the center of the forehead



SKETCH THESE EXAMPLES ON THE BACK OF YOUR INDEX CARD

1. Bodice, Shirt & Turban



2. Bodice, Shirt, Turban & Slashed Fur Sleeves

