The French Renaissance
The royal Chateau de Chambord in the Loire Valley is one of the most recognizable chateaux in the world because of its very distinct French renaissance architecture.
Causes of the Renaissance

◆ Delayed because of Black Death and Hundred Years War
◆ French invasion of Italy
◆ Proximity of Burgundy Court
◆ Papal Court in Avignon
◆ Religious shifts
◆ Behind in painting and architecture
Timeline

- 1435: The Medici family dynasty begins in France
- 1453: Fall of Constantinople & end of the Hundred Years War
- 1468: Gutenberg invented the printing press
- 1492: Christopher Columbus discovered the Americas
- 1494-1559: Italian Wars: France and Austria fight over Italian territories (Charles VIII invades Italy)
- 1519: Leonardo da Vinci dies in the arms of Francois I
- 1562-1598: The Wars of Religion: Catholics killed Huguenots (members of the Protestant Reformed Church of France) aka French Calvinists
- 1572: St. Bartholomew’s Day Massacre
- 1589-1593: Henri IV converts France to Catholicism, ending the Wars of Religion
- 1598: The Edict of Nantes is signed
Catherine d’ Medici

- Born to the Medici family of Florence, Italy
- Her parents died shortly after her birth and she became the sole heiress to everything in her parents’ possession
- Arranged marriage to Henry of Orleans (the French did not like her very much, with the exception of King Francis I)
- Even as the Queen of France, not much control over King Henry II rather his mistress, Diane de Poitiers, had the power
- 1559: King Henry II died in a tournament and Catherine’s eldest son Francis II came to the throne
- Francis II ruled for 17 months then died, Charles IX came to throne, then Henry III did
- She overcame the religious wars and the hatred that the French had for her with grace and still upheld the necessary power
Gutenberg Printing Press

- He was a goldsmith
- First assembled in Germany
- Gutenberg was the first in W. Europe to develop
- Renaissance era, formatted the modern movable type (the system of printing that uses movable pieces to format individual letters/punctuation)
- The Bible was the first book to be published
Italian Wars

- Basically a huge war between multiple countries for power and territory
- Involved Italy, France, Spain, the Holy Roman Empire, England, Scotland, and the Ottoman Empire
- The impact of these multiple wars and the turmoil in France from King Henry II’s death and the death of his son Francis II soon led France into the...
French Wars of Religion

- Fighting between the French Catholics and the Protestants (Huguenots)
- Massacre of Vassey (1st Religious War) *summary
- A number of other wars went on between the Catholics and the Protestants but the most well-known is probably...
St. Bartholomew’s Day Massacre

- Targeted group of assassinations in Paris
- Wedding of the Catholic Princess Marguerite de Valois to the Protestant Henry of Navarre
- Admiral Coligny was pursuing an alliance
- Assassin made a failed attempt on Coligny’s life
- 2 days later a Catholic group killed Coligny by throwing his body from a window into the street, mutilated, castrated, dragged into mud, thrown in the river, then hung and set afire to in the middle of Paris
- Led into a full-scale massacre of the Huguenots (men, women, and children) plus looting of the houses
- Catholics told King Philip II of Spain and Pope Gregory XIII that a (non-existent) Huguenot coup had been avoided and they celebrated over the news
• Then there were more wars between the Huguenots and the Catholics
• And finally...
The Edict of Nantes

- Issued April 13, 1598 by Henry IV
- Granted the Protestants of France rights in a nation still predominantly Catholic
- Main concern was civil unity
- Separated civil from religious unity
- Opened a path of tolerance and offered freedom of conscience
- Reinstated civil rights for the Protestants (they could work for the state and in any field they desired)
Influences

- Italian and Flemish artists
  - Leonardo da Vinci, Jean Clouet
- Schools of Fontainebleau
  - Rosso Fiorentino, Francesco Primaticcio and Niccolò dell'Abbate
  - Ambroise Dubois, Toussaint Dubreuil, and Martin Fréminet
- Mannerism
Important Artists

- Leonardo da Vinci
- Jean Fouquet
  - Portrait Miniatures
  - Panel Paintings
  - Illuminations
- François Clouet
  - Miniatures
  - Book of Hours
  - Portraits
- Jean Cousin
  - Glass painter
  - Tapestries
Important Works of Art
Architecture

- Châteaux of the Loire Valley
- Philibert Delorme, Château of Anet
- Fontainebleau, Francis I
- Pierre Lescot renovated Louvre castle in 1546
- Luxurious, defensive, classical
Sculpture

- Jean Goujon
- Germain Pilon
- Michel Colombe
- Pierre Bontemps
- Tours
• The middle class was rapidly growing.
• A lot of free time was now spent in taverns.
• Expanding the mind was now also a leisurely activity.
• Jousting was still a favorite sport and peaked during the 16th century.
• Music was increasingly secular
• Vocal range increased
• Purely instrumental music for dancing
• Towards the end of the period development of the opera is seen

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jG44RKDFZ38
The creation of the printing press by Johannes Gutenburg encouraged the vernacular.

William Shakespeare was an author that was around during the time.

The French short story was developed.
Mystery, morality, farces, and soties were popular themes.
Public plays were regulated.
Living people couldn’t be depicted.
The classics were translated into French.
Humanist tragedy became popular.
Food

- Food was a sign of social class.
- Meat wasn’t served everyday.
- Bread was a staple food as was wine.
- Servants living in houses ate better than most of the middle class.
References

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