

## Video Worksheet: “Medici Godfathers of the Renaissance”

### Program #1: “The Birth of a Dynasty”

Preview Questions: *Discuss with your partner.*

1. What do you already know about the Medici family and the Renaissance?
2. Where is Florence, i.e. *Firenze*?
3. The Renaissance starts in the *quattrocento*—what century is that? What are the years for this era?
4. What does the title *The Medici: Godfathers of the Renaissance* suggest about the family?
5. How does a family become rich and powerful?

While Watching: *Use the list below to fill in the blanks. Use each term once.*

Albizzi	arches	artists	bricks	classical	manuscripts	General Council
manuscripts	concrete	Cosimo	Donatello	gears	heresy	Brunelleschi
columns	John XXIII	Pater Patriae	patronage	perspective	pope	power & prestige
republic	buildings	Florence	bribing			

1. The Renaissance begins when Cosimo de Medici and his friends search Europe for \_\_\_\_\_. Simply reading pagan authors like Socrates and Plato was punishable by excommunication from the church.
2. Popes could excommunicate (throw from the church and damn forever) Christians guilty of \_\_\_\_\_, which was believing anything other than what the church preached.
3. \_\_\_\_\_, who built the dome of the Florence Cathedral, was both architect and engineer.
4. Brunelleschi used \_\_\_\_\_ as supports for first time in 1000 years, creating a revolution in architecture.
5. Florentines came to watch the construction of the dome. One of the things that amazed them was Brunelleschi’s use of the classical orders of \_\_\_\_\_, which hadn’t been used since the fall of Rome.
6. Although Brunelleschi examined the construction of the dome of the Roman Pantheon, he couldn’t use the same techniques because of the size of the dome and because the recipe for making \_\_\_\_\_ had been lost.
7. Brunelleschi also devised a way to alter the \_\_\_\_\_ on pulleys so the oxen could pull the 1700-pound sandstone beams 250 feet into the air and return them to the ground without changing direction.
8. Brunelleschi personally lay some of the \_\_\_\_\_ on the dome because what he proposed was so revolutionary that the brick masons were afraid the technique would fail and they would die.
9. Cosimo’s patronage of Brunelleschi helped the Medici family gain \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ banking family, who resented the power of the Medici, had \_\_\_\_\_ arrested.
11. Brunelleschi was jailed and forced to stop work on Il Duomo (the dome) when his patron was found guilty of treason against \_\_\_\_\_.
12. When Cosimo was finally asked to return to Florence, he had even more power and prestige. The Medici banks became the most important banks in Europe as they collected money for the \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Cosimo de Medici’s patronage of Baldesari Cossa paid off when Cossa became Pope \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Marcello Fantoni: “Patronage is great for the production of art but totally irrational from an economic view. \_\_\_\_\_ is a political strategy. . . .high political competition. . . .”
15. Florence was proud to be the only \_\_\_\_\_ in Europe; but the government was often corrupt.

