

## THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

### Vocabulary

**Absolve:** To release from guilt or blame. In the Catholic faith, one's sins are absolved by a priest through the sacrament of Penance.

**Act of Supremacy:** A law by which King Henry VIII declared himself to be the supreme head of the Church in England in 1534.

**Anglican:** Pertaining to the Church of England.

**Annulment:** The act of annulling or invalidating a marriage. An annulment is not the same as divorce and can only be granted if an acceptable reason exists for the invalidation.

**Austere:** Simple, plain, rigid, harsh.

**Avignon Papacy:** The period from 1309-1377 when the popes ruled from Avignon, France.

**Babylonian Captivity:** Refers to the period of the Avignon papacy. The term was coined by the philosopher Petrarch; it recalls images of the exile of the Israelites as well as the sin and immorality of Babylon. Petrarch complained that Avignon was "the modern Babylon, heated, raging, obscene and terrible."

**Basilica:** A large church built over the tomb of a person of great distinction, usually a saint.

**Bishop:** Originally a spiritual overseer in the Christian Church. Bishops rule over dioceses, which are made up of a number of different parishes. They have higher rank than priests but a lower rank than cardinals.

**Black Plague:** An infectious bacterial disease typically spread by the bites of rodent fleas. 25 million Europeans died from the Black Plague between 1347 and 1351.

**Calvin, John (1509-64):** French theologian and author of the book *Institutes of the Christian Religion* that was very influential during the Reformation.

**Calvinism:** The religious system established by John Calvin, whose main doctrines were those of predestination, the absolute sovereignty of God, the inherited sinfulness of all people and the eternal doom which accompanies that sinfulness, and the salvation of the "chosen few."

**Cardinal:** A senator of the Roman Catholic Church who acts as the pope's counselor. Following the death of the pope, the College of Cardinals meets to select his successor from among its own ranks.

**Catholic Church:** A term meaning "universal" church, used since 160 A.D. The Roman Catholic Church has always used this title claiming to be the only pure channel of the Christian faith.

**Council of Trent (1545-1563):** A church council formed by Pope Paul III to deal with problems caused by the Protestant Reformation.

**Creed:** A statement of religious beliefs.

**Deliberated:** Carefully thought out or debated.

**Dissolution of the Monasteries (1536-1539):** The abolishment of all the Roman Catholic monasteries in England, ordered by King Henry VIII.

**Diet of Worms:** An assembly of representatives from all the nations making up the Holy Roman Empire. The meeting of the Diet was called by the Emperor Charles V for April 16-26 of 1521 to deal with Luther's heretical activities.

**Doctrine:** Teachings; something taught as the principles or creed of a religion.

**Dogma:** A tenet or belief.

**Eastern Orthodox Church:** A branch of the original Catholic Church that split off in the 5th Century A.D. and is headed by the patriarch of Constantinople. This form of Christianity is practiced in Greece and Russia and has over 125 million members.

**Edict of Worms:** The formal decree issued by the Diet of Worms. This edict commanded that Luther and his associates be captured, punished and stripped of all their worldly goods unless they changed their views and were absolved by the pope.

**The Elect:** According to Calvin, "The Elect" are those pre-chosen by God to go to heaven.

**Episcopal Church (Protestant Episcopal Church):** The self-governing American branch of the Anglican Church.

**Excommunication:** Banishment from the Roman Catholic Church.

**Fatalistic:** An outlook characterized by fatalism; that is, that everything is predetermined by fate.

**Heresy:** A doctrine or belief that is contrary to fundamental doctrines or creeds of one's church.

**Heretic:** One who holds doctrines or opinions that are contrary to the fundamental doctrines of one's church.

**Holy Roman Empire:** The political organization in central Europe from 900 A.D. to 1806. It was called Roman because it was considered the successor to Rome and holy because its emperor ruled over Christian territories. Essentially it was a German monarchy whose roots went back to the time of Charlemagne.

**Hundred Years' War (1337-1453):** War between England and France that began when King Edward III of England claimed the throne of France.

**Hus, Johannes (1369-1415):** Theologian at the University of Prague who was burned at the stake for heresy even though the Church had guaranteed his safety.

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## THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

### Vocabulary (continued)

**Idol:** An image of a god used as an object of worship.

**Idolatry:** The worship of idols.

**Indulgence:** In the Roman Catholic Church, a remission or elimination of the punishment still due for a sin after the guilt has been forgiven in the sacrament of Penance. Indulgences are normally obtained by making large spiritual sacrifices, but in Luther's time, they were sold for cash.

**Infallibility:** The dogma that the pope is divinely guarded from making errors when speaking officially on matters of faith or morals.

**Infallible:** Incapable of error.

**Luther, Martin (1483-1546):** A German monk whose staunch religious beliefs brought about the Protestant Reformation.

**Lutheranism:** A system of Christian doctrine based on the principles taught by Martin Luther. Lutheranism is the world's largest Protestant denomination.

**Monastery:** A place where monks live.

**Monk:** A person who lives in accordance with certain religious vows.

**Mystical:** Doctrines based on mysticism which state that it is possible to achieve communion with God through contemplation and love without the medium of human reason.

**Ninety-Five Theses:** Luther's 95 criticisms of Catholic doctrine and practices that were posted on the door of the castle church in Wittenberg, Germany on October 31, 1517. This action more or less started the Protestant Reformation.

**Notorious:** Widely but unfavorably known.

**Papacy:** The rank of pope; popes collectively. The period of time during which a pope rules; the succession of popes. The government of the Roman Catholic Church.

**Papal Bull:** A formal decree made by a pope.

**Peasants Rebellion (1524-25):** German rebellion of poor peasants that was inspired by Luther's writings. Peasants rebelled against extra taxation imposed by the manorial lords. The revolt failed partially because Luther condemned it, and as a result, about 100,000 people died.

**Popes:** Supreme rulers of the Roman Catholic Church from St. Peter to the present day. Roman Catholics believe that the pope is infallible, that is cannot make an error when it comes to doctrines of faith and morals.

**Predestination:** A doctrine preached by Calvin describing his belief that God chooses in advance which souls are to be saved and which are to be damned.

**Presbyterianism:** A system of church government by presbyters or elders that dates from ancient and apostolic times and was revived during the Reformation by John Calvin.

**Priest:** Originally, in the early Christian Church, a priest was a presbyter or elder. In the Catholic Church, priests say the Mass and perform the sacraments of the Church.

**Protestant:** A word that began to be used as a result of the protest which arose among Lutheran princes who were required by the Diet of Speyer in 1529 to tolerate Catholic minorities in their territories.

**Protestant Reformation:** A movement for reform of the Catholic Church initiated by Martin Luther around 1517. The Reformation is considered to be an important part of the cultural renewal of the Renaissance.

**Recant:** To make a formal public withdrawal or renunciation of formerly held beliefs, statements, etc.

**Renaissance:** Literally "new birth." The great period of revival of art, literature, and learning that occurred in Europe during the 14th, 15th, and 16th centuries. The Protestant Reformation was a key event of the Renaissance.

**Roman Catholic Church:** Same as the Catholic Church.

**Sacred:** Dedicated to religious use. Made holy. Consecrated to God. Relating to religious rite and practices.

**Sacrament:** In Christianity, any of certain rites ordained by Jesus. Catholics and Eastern Orthodox Christians recognize seven sacraments: Matrimony, Penance, Extreme Unction or the Last Rites, Baptism, Confirmation, Ordination, and the Holy Eucharist.

**Sacrifice:** An offering to God.

**Savonarola, Girolamo (1452-1498):** An Italian priest who publicly called out for religious reform. Because of his outspokenness, Savonarola was burned at the stake in the central square of Florence.

**Secular:** Pertaining to the laity instead of to religious persons. Non-clerical. Non-religious activities.

**Terrible Majesty of God:** Calvin coined this phrase. The word "terrible" originally meant to strike terror, majesty means greatness; the power of a king. So "The Terrible Majesty of God" means a king whose greatness is such as to strike terror in the hearts of human beings because, according to Calvin's doctrine of predestination, God knows before birth whether a person goes to hell or to heaven and even leading a good life will not save you if you are not one of God's "Chosen Few."

**Thirty Years' War (1618-1648):** A war between Catholics and Protestants which ended up as a purely political struggle to reduce the power of the Habsburg rulers. This war was limited to certain areas of central Europe. It eventually involved most of the European powers and their colonies and brought great devastation.

**Zwingli, Ulrich (1484-1531):** German reformer who fostered Protestantism in the Swiss city of Zurich during the 1520s.

## THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

### Timeline 1300-1565

**1302:** Pope Boniface VIII declares that, hereafter, popes will be the ultimate sources of power and truth. Because of this threat to his royal authority, the king of France tries to capture the pope and have him tried for heresy.

**1309:** Beginning of the Avignon Papacy. The next seven popes will rule from Avignon, France, not Rome. Corruption prevails. Popes at Avignon are dominated by the French kings.

**1315:** Beginning of three years of massive famine in Europe.

**1337:** Outbreak of the Hundred Years' War between France and England.

**1347-51:** Black Plague kills 25 million people in Europe.

**1378:** Rome is re-established as the headquarters of the Church. Two popes battle for control of the Church.

**1389:** Geoffrey Chaucer begins writing the *Canterbury Tales*.

**1398:** Invention of printing with moveable type.

**1409:** Three popes struggle for control of the Church.

**1415:** Johannes Hus is burned at the stake for being a heretic.

**1452:** Birth of Leonardo da Vinci. The first book is published describing the medical treatment of gunshot wounds.

**1453:** Turks capture Constantinople ending the Byzantine Empire, which was originally the eastern half of the Great Empire of Rome. End of the Hundred Years' War.

**1454:** In Mainz, Germany, Johannes Guttenberg prints the Bible using a moveable type printing press.

**1473:** Michelangelo paints the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome.

**1474:** William Caxton prints the first book in English.

**1475:** Vasco Nunez de Balboa is the first European to discover the Pacific Ocean.

**1483:** Martin Luther is born in Eisleben, Germany.

**1492:** On October 12th, Christopher Columbus reaches an island in the West Indies.

**1498:** Girolamo Savonarola, an Italian monk, reformer, and martyr, is executed.

**1505:** Luther enters the Augustinian monastery in Erfurt, Germany.

**1507:** Luther is ordained a Catholic priest.

**1509:** John Calvin is born in France.

**1512:** Luther becomes a doctor of theology.

**1513:** Machiavelli writes *The Prince*, a classic Renaissance book on how to rule and stay in power.

**1514:** Nicholas Copernicus theorizes that the sun, not the earth, is at the center of the solar system.

**1517:** Martin Luther initiates the Protestant Reformation by posting the 95 theses on the door of Wittenberg Castle Church.

**1520:** Turkeys and maize are imported into Europe from the New World. Luther burns the papal bull threatening his excommunication.

**1521:** Cortez conquers the Aztec kingdom in Mexico. January 3rd, Martin Luther is excommunicated from the Catholic Church. April 17th and 18th, Luther appears before the Imperial Diet at Worms to answer charges of heresy. May 26th, Edict of Worms is issued.

**1522:** Ulrich Zwingli promotes the Reformation in Zurich, Switzerland. Luther completes his translation of the New Testament into German and comes out of hiding at Wartburg Castle.

**1523:** First Protestant hymns are composed.

**1525:** Luther marries Katerina von Bora. Peasants War in Germany causes the deaths of 100,000 people.

**1534:** King Henry VIII of England, through the Act of Supremacy, declares that he is the head of the Church of England. Pizarro captures the Inca empire in Peru. Luther completes his translation of the Bible into German.

**1536:** Calvin publishes his famous book *Institutes of the Christian Religion*.

**1536-39:** King Henry VIII closes all the monasteries in England and seizes their property through an act called the Dissolution of the Monasteries.

**1539:** Spain claims the lands of the American Southwest.

**1540-41:** Coronado explores the American Southwest.

**1545:** Beginning of the Council of Trent at Trento, Italy and the start of the Catholic Reformation.

**1546:** Martin Luther dies in Eisleben, Germany on February 18th.

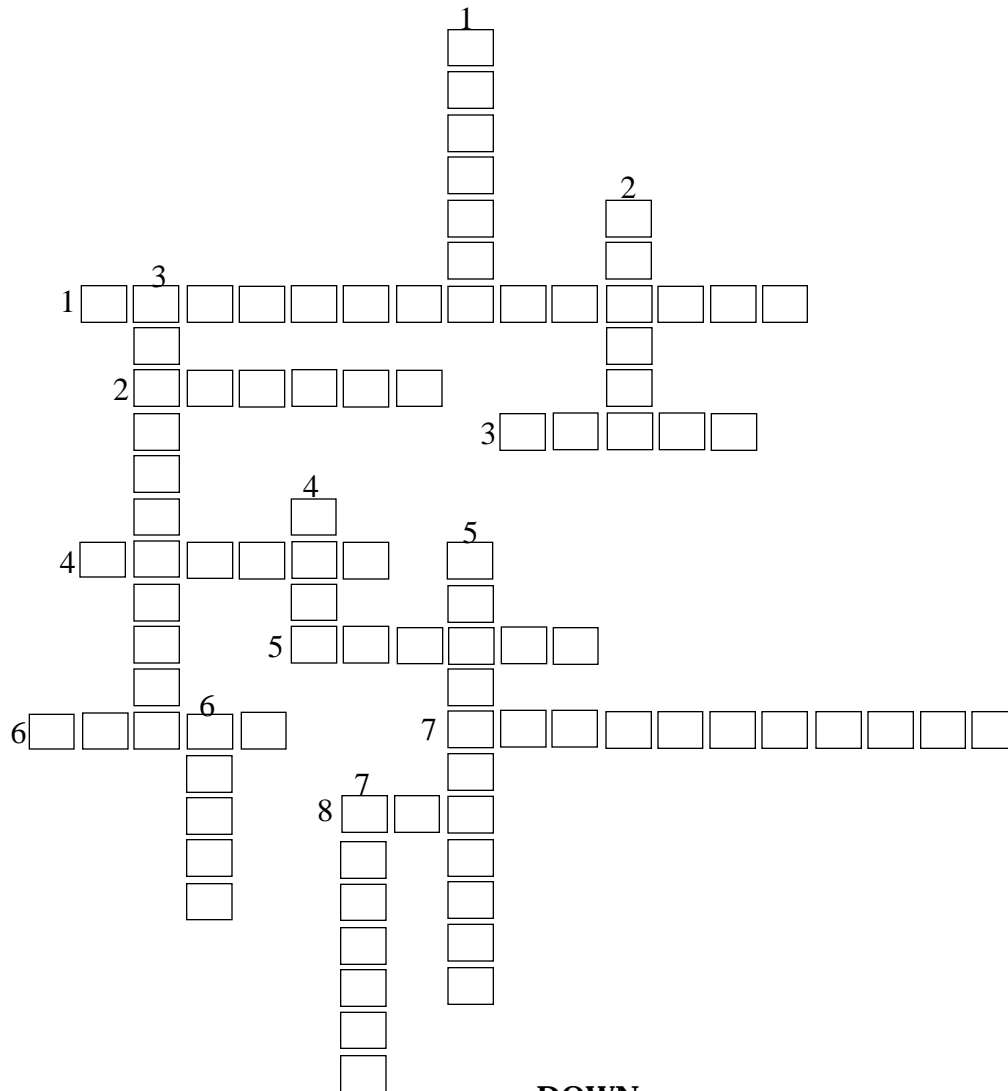
**1556:** In late January, an earthquake kills 830,000 people in China; the worst earthquake in history.

**1562:** Witchcraft becomes punishable by death in England.

**1563:** End of the Council of Trent; Catholics decide not to give in to the Protestants; instead they reaffirm all their traditional doctrines.

**1564:** William Shakespeare is born in England. Michelangelo and John Calvin die.

**1565:** The first potatoes arrive in Europe from South America.

**THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION****Crossword****ACROSS**

- The religious doctrine that whether one is saved or damned is known by God even before a person is born.
- From 1309-1377 the headquarters of the papacy was located in a town in southern \_\_\_\_\_.
- In April of 1521 a meeting of representatives of his empire was called by the Emperor Charles V. They were to assemble in the German town of \_\_\_\_\_.
- The French theologian John \_\_\_\_\_ wrote the influential book *Institutes of the Christian Religion*.
- The Catholic Reforms began to take shape in 1545 when a great church council assembled in the Italian city of \_\_\_\_\_.
- King \_\_\_\_\_ VIII instituted the Act of Supremacy.
- The criticism of the Catholic Church that set off a protestant religious rebellion centered on the sale of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Fifteenth century religious reformer Johannes \_\_\_\_\_ was burned at the stake for heresy even though the Church had guaranteed his safety.

**DOWN**

- Ulrich \_\_\_\_\_ sought changes in Church practices in Zurich in 1522.
- Martin \_\_\_\_\_ was the first person to translate the Bible into German.
- Between 1520 and 1540 tremendous changes occurred that resulted in a breakup of Catholic domination of the Christian faith in Western Europe. This period is now called the Protestant \_\_\_\_\_.
- A formal assembly of representatives from states under the control of the Emperor Charles V was called a \_\_\_\_\_.
- The religious changes that occurred in sixteenth century Europe were just one aspect of a larger historical movement of cultural rebirth called the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Charles V's empire dated back to Charlemagne and was known as the Holy \_\_\_\_\_ Empire.
- A doctrine or belief that is contrary to the accepted beliefs of one's church is called a \_\_\_\_\_.

**THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION****Quiz**

**Directions:** Answer the following questions by filling in the blank with the correct answer.

1. Between 1545 and 1563, a great Council of the Catholic Church met in northern Italy to decide how to deal with the growing Protestant rebellion. They were called the Council of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Between 1309 and 1377, the popes of the Catholic Church ruled from the town of \_\_\_\_\_ in France.
3. Between the years 1409 and 1415, how many men claimed to be the true pope? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Two Protestant reformers were very active in Switzerland during the 1520s and 1530s. Their names were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
5. King Henry VIII of England declared himself leader of the Church in England because the pope refused to \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Before becoming a professor of Biblical Scripture, Martin Luther had pursued the religious life both as a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_.
7. After closing all the monasteries in England, King Henry VIII declared that all their land and anything of value they contained belonged to \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The Edict of Worms, condemning Martin Luther, was to become an important turning point in western civilization mostly because it was \_\_\_\_\_.
9. By 1563, the Catholic Church had decided to \_\_\_\_\_ its doctrines that were being criticized by the Protestants.
10. It is estimated that the rebellion of German peasants in 1525 cost the lives of roughly \_\_\_\_\_ people.

**Directions:** Place a "T" after the true statements and an "F" after the false statements.

1. After Henry VIII became head of the Church of England, the first thing he did was to abolish the sacraments and the Mass.
2. Compared to Catholic dogma, the doctrines preached by John Calvin were quite cheerful.
3. John Calvin and Martin Luther both strongly believed that by doing good works one would be assured of entering the kingdom of heaven.
4. In the 1520s and 1530s, many churches in Zurich and Geneva were stripped of their stained glass windows and religious statues were smashed.
5. The invention of a printing press with moveable type played a major role in spreading new Protestant ideas during the sixteenth century.
6. Charles V, the man who sought to administer secular punishments to Luther, was the emperor of the Holy Roman Empire.
7. Although Martin Luther was a stubborn reformer, he never learned to read or write.
8. In Germany, Lutheran princes found that their authority was seriously reduced as a result of the Reformation.
9. Capitalism tended to thrive wherever Calvinism flourished.
10. The sale of indulgences by the Church was officially forbidden in the year 1517.