**Reformation**

The Reformation occurred during Renaissance times. It was a split in the Catholic Church where a new type of Christianity called Protestantism was born.

**More People Reading the Bible**During the Middle Ages, few people other than monks and priests knew how to read and write. However, with the Renaissance, more and more people became educated and learned how to read. At the same time, the printing press was invented allowing for new ideas, as well as scriptures of the Bible, to be easily printed and distributed. People were able to read the Bible for themselves for the first time.

**Martin Luther**   
A monk named Martin Luther began to question the practices of the Catholic Church as he studied the Bible. He found many areas where he felt the Bible and the Catholic Church disagreed. On October 31, 1517 Luther took a list of 95 points where he thought the Church had gone wrong and nailed it to the door of a Catholic Church.   
  
**Less Money for the Church**   
One of the practices that Luther disagreed with was the paying of indulgences. This practice allowed people to be forgiven of their sins when they paid the church money. After Luther nailed his list to the Church, the Catholics began to make less money. This made them mad. They kicked him out of the church and called him a heretic. This may not sound bad today, but in those times heretics were often put to death.   
  
**Reform Spreads through Northern Europe**   
Many people agreed with Martin Luther that the Catholic Church had become corrupt. Much of northern Europe began to separate from the Catholic Church. Several new churches were formed such as the Lutheran Church and the Reformed Church. Also new reform leaders such as John Calvin in Switzerland spoke out against the Catholic Church.   
  
**The Church of England**   
In a separate split from the Catholic Church, the Church of England split from the Roman Catholic Church. This was over a different issue. King Henry VIII wanted to divorce his wife because she did not produce a male heir for him, but the Catholic Church would not let him. He decided to split from the Roman Catholics and create his own church called the Church of England which would allow him to get a divorce.   
  
**War**  
Sadly, arguments over the Reformation finally led to a series of wars. Some rulers were converted to Protestantism while others still supported the Catholic Church. The Thirty Years War was fought in [Germany](http://www.ducksters.com/geography/country/germany_history_timeline.php), Martin Luther's home, and involved nearly every country in Europe. The war was devastating with estimates of between 25% and 40% of the German population being killed.

**Reformation Mini-Quiz**

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| 1. What was the Reformation?  a. When protestant churches and ideas formed, breaking away from the Catholic Church b. A time when people studied humanism and art c. When the Roman Empire split into two empires, the east and the west d. A time when more and more people began to read and write e. A time when scientists began to use the scientific method and great discoveries were made  2. What monk began to question the teachings of the Catholic Church in 1517?  a. Thomas Aquinas b. St. Benedict c. Martin Luther d. Richard of Wallingford e. William of Normandy  3. What practice allowed people to gain forgiveness by giving the Catholic Church money?  a. Golden forgiveness b. Paying indulgences c. Fee for sinners d. Purchasing saves e. Bribing  4. What did the Catholic Church do to Martin Luther for publishing his 95 Theses?  a. Had him killed b. Forgave him c. Read his complaints and tried to address them d. Kicked him out of the church for being a heretic e. Ignored him  5. What did Martin Luther do with his 95 Theses when he was done with it?  a. Discussed it with his fellow monks b. Sent it to the Pope c. Hid it as he knew it was dangerous d. Burnt it e. Nailed it to the door of a church | 6. Why did King Henry VIII form the Church of England?  a. Because he wanted to have a church of his own b. Because he thought Rome was too far away c. Because the Catholic Church would not allow him to divorce his wife d. Because the Catholic Church did not like England e. Because he was going to war against Italy  7. What war was the result of the Reformation?  a. The First World War b. The 30 Year War c. The War of the Priests d. The First Crusade e. The Byzantine Civil War  8. True or False: The war in Germany that resulted from the Reformation was largely peaceful and few people died.  a. TRUE b. FALSE  9. What led to the Reformation?  a. More people reading b. The invention of the printing press c. More people able to read the Bible d. All of the above e. None of the above  10. What was the worst punishment for being named a heretic by the Catholic Church?  a. Prison b. Not allowed in church c. Exiled from the country d. Put to death e. A heavy fine |