The Renaissance

The Renaissance in England was also called “rebirth”. The Renaissance marks the transition from the medieval to the modern world. It covers the historical period from 1485 to 1660. The Renaissance in Europe and in England was marked by a change in the way people thought about themselves and the world instead people put themselves at the center of the universe. The Renaissance began in Italy in fourteenth century. It was a time of rebirth of intellectual and artistic energies that characterized ancient Greek and roman civilization. Famous Italians men of Renaissance were: Giotto, Brunelleschi, Lorenzo de Medici, Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo. During the Renaissance educated people to began to include an intellectual movement known as Humanism. In Italy Lorenzo de Medici encouraged intellectual trend and artistic accomplishments and he also encouraged the goals of Renaissance and Humanism. In England this period is composed by two other periods: the Elizabeth and the Jacobean. In the Elizabeth period ruled five monarchs: Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I. Henry VII came to the English throne in 1495 when the War of Roses ended. He was the first Tudor king. Henry VII had two sons: Arthur and Henry VIII. Arthur was married with Catherine of Aragon, but he died in an early age. After Arthur’s death, Henry married his brother’s widow, Catherine of Aragon. In twenty years of marriage she only produced a daughter (Mary I) and Henry want a male heir so he decided to annul the marriage. The pope would not declare his first marriage invalid so Henry broke with Rome and declare himself “Supreme head on Earth of the Church of England” by means of the Act of Supremacy. After that he married Anne Boleyn and the had a daughter, Elizabeth. Henry married another woman, her name was Jane Seymour. She gave birth Edward VI. Edward VI ruled from 1547 to 1553. After Edward VI ascended the throne of England Mary I. During her reign she earned the nickname “Bloody Mary” because she began to persecute Protestants instead she wanted to restore the Catholicism in England. After Mary I ascended the throne Elizabeth I. Elizabeth ruled longer than any other monarch during the Renaissance and she attained new heights in world affairs, in art, in literature and in music. During the Elizabethan age entertainment was an essential part of everyday life. During her reign was built the first permanent playhouse. The first public theater was built in 1576 near London. From 1593 to 1594 theaters were closed because of the plague. With the death of Elizabeth I, the Tudor line died out and James VI became the king of England. He was a protestant king. He left no heirs. He ruled from 1603 to 1625. King James encouraged knowledge of the Bible, and this version, call King James Bible, would be used by the Church of England for a lot of time. After his death ascended the throne Charles, the son of James I. During the Charles’s reign there was a civil war and Charles was killed. After the civil war Cromwell took the control of London. Cromwell died in 1658 and in England there was the restoration of the monarchy. In 1660 ascended the throne Charles II.