

# Europe Level 3

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 Important Facts

## The Splendor of Sacred Images



 Find the Reliquary, about A.D. 1220.

A reliquary is used to hold a saintly relic (like the bone of a saint). This piece is made of gilded copper (copper covered by a thin layer of gold) and enamel (ground glass melted by firing in a kiln).

How do you know this piece of art is religious in nature?

It is in the shape of a church with images of magi presenting gifts to Mary and Jesus

Why is the reliquary covered with gold?

Gold or silver used almost exclusively for the church, it also shows the value placed on the relics.

Retables generally stood at the back of an altar in a church. Although it is a religious work of art, the piece also conveys information about aspects of daily life and about early Renaissance art.

What are the scenes represented in the retable?

The central scene depicts the birth of Jesus of Nazareth in a manger; the right scene shows the visitation of the magi; the left scene depicts the circumcision of Jesus; and the top central scene is an image of heaven

What does this piece show us about daily life in the Renaissance?



 Find the Oak Retable, A.D. 1510-1515.

It shows the social status of individuals (nobles, bishops, monks, peasants, foreigners) through the use of hairstyle and clothing, musical instruments, architecture (gothic arches, and glass windows).

## Armour and Steel



 Find this *Anime* made about 1555, for the First Earl of Pembroke, William Herbert, in the royal workshop at Greenwich.

An *anime* is a *cuirass* (breast and back plate) made by taking narrow overlapping pieces of steel and riveting them together (called *lames*).

Why would a knight prefer an *anime* to a *cuirass* (a solid breast piece)?

*Anime* would provide greater flexibility.

What does this piece tell you about warfare in the Medieval/Renaissance?

For knights of the noble class armour is valuable, this is a symbol of the feudal system. It is from the Royal Armoury, knights were mounted and used swords.



## Secrets in the Bedroom

The room illustrates the creation of the middle class in the Renaissance, and their rising wealth. The wooden paneling is from a merchant's house (about 1580) and the bed was originally located in an inn. The nautilus shell cup and coconut cup are examples of exotic goods coming back to England from the voyages of exploration.

Look at the painting of the two children in the room. What can you discern about the two children in the painting?

The boy is 4, girl is 3; the coats of arm tell that they are from different families; judging by the clothing, both are wealthy.

This painting was done to mark a special occasion. Looking for clues within the painting, what was the occasion?

A betrothal -- like an engagement, but as legally binding as an actual wedding; holding hands and apples imply a wish for lots of children.

 Find the Tudor Bedroom of a