

Reformation

Martin Luther and his times

Made by Liesl at homeschoolden.com

On the following pages, you will find a notebook page on Martin Luther, plus you'll find several other pages of notes about the selling of indulgences, Johann Tetzel, the 95 Theses, and Luther's reforms.

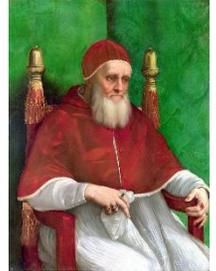
I printed out the first page for the kids to put in their history notebooks. We went over the other information in this packet, read the section from [The Story of the Renaissance](#) (affiliate link), which we are using as our spine for this unit. The kids cut out the lapbook pieces, took notes, and glued them onto a blank page to add to their history notebook.



Martin Luther

Problems in Rome:

- The pope was forced into costly wars to defend the Papal States. Rulers in _____, _____, and _____ interfered in Italian affairs.
- Pope _____ decided to rebuild St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome. He needed money to finance these projects.
- The pope raised money by increasing fees the Christian pays on _____, _____, and _____.
- Popes also permitted the sale of _____. This was a reduction of the punishment that a _____ would suffer in purgatory after death. These were first granted during the _____, when the pope agreed to cancel penalties a crusader committed. But later, indulgences were granted not only for service, but also for money contributions to the Church.
- By the 1500s, people could buy indulgences for _____. Indulgences became increasingly popular in the Middle Ages as a reward for displaying piety and doing good deeds
- The woodcut on the right portrays the Pope as the Antichrist, signing and selling indulgences. It is from Luther's 1521 *Passional Christi und Antichristi*.



Martin Luther

- Was the son of a _____, who went on to study law.
- Several of his friends were killed when the plague swept through Germany.
- In 1505 during a summer storm, Luther vowed to become a monk.
- He joined an Augustinian monastery, devoting himself to fasting, long hours in prayer, pilgrimage, and frequent confession.



Tetzel Selling Indulgences

In 1516, Johann Tetzel, a Dominican friar and papal commissioner for indulgences, was sent to Germany by the Roman Catholic Church to sell indulgences to raise money to rebuild St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

In 1517 Tetzel was actively selling indulgences near Luther's home. Tetzel was quoted as saying:

“As soon as the _____ in the coffer rings,
the _____ from purgatory springs”



This did not represent the official Catholic teaching on indulgences, but rather, reflected Tetzel's capacity to exaggerate.

Below is a 1530 woodcut showing the sale of indulgences. It also shows the minting of excess coinage and cheating merchants.



According to Luther, after Tetzel had received a substantial amount of money at Leipzig, a nobleman asked him if it were possible to receive a letter of indulgence for a future sin. Tetzel quickly answered in the affirmative, insisting, however, that the payment had to be made at once. This the nobleman did, receiving thereupon letter and seal from Tetzel. When Tetzel left Leipzig the nobleman attacked him along the way, gave him a thorough beating, and sent him back empty-handed to Leipzig with the comment that this was the future sin which he had in mind. Duke George at first was quite furious about this incident, but when he heard the whole story he let it go without punishing the nobleman. ([Tetzel & Indulgences](#))

95 Theses

- Luther was outraged at Tetzl's activities.
- The myth is that he posted 95 theses or questions for debate on the door of the Wittenberg castle church. More likely, he sent a hand-written copy of his objections and issues to be discussed (including the sale of indulgences) to the archbishop Albert of Mainz and Magdeburg for scholarly debate.



- In this document, he condemned the sale of indulgences. He argued that indulgences could neither release a soul from purgatory nor cancel a person's sins.
- Within weeks, Luther's message had been printed and spread across Europe.
- Luther was forced to defend his statements and began to deny the Church's authority in other matters.
- He claimed that the authority of the Bible and a person's own conscience outweighed the pope's authority.
- Pope Leo X (Lorenzo de' Medici's second son) became alarmed and excommunicated Luther.



By October 1521, the city of Wittenberg had begun celebrating Lutheran services instead of Masses. His popularity grew because the general Catholic population were dissatisfied with corruption and the worldly desires of the Church. By 1526, Luther was increasingly occupied in organizing a new church.

In 1521, Martin Luther was called before Charles V, the Holy Roman Emperor. He expected to be able to explain his views, but instead the emperor asked him to renounce his heresy. Luther refused and Charles V declared him an outlaw. Luther found refuge in Saxony.

Luther's Teachings

*Individuals could not achieve salvation by their own efforts (such as performing good works). A person's only hope of salvation was faith in God's mercy – by faith alone.

*Luther maintained the Bible was the only guide for Christians. (He rejected many Church ceremonies as well as the authority of the pope himself because the Bible makes no mention of them.)

*Luther emphasized the role of the individual.

Luther Translates the Bible:

Luther published his German translation of the New Testament in 1522, and he and his collaborators completed the translation of the Old Testament in 1534, when the whole Bible was published.

Martin Luther Huggers

Problems in Rome:

- The pope was forced into costly wars to defend the Papal States. Rulers in France, Spain, and Germany (the Holy Roman Empire) interfered in Italian affairs.
- Pope Julius II decided to rebuild St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome. He needed money to finance these projects.
- The pope raised money by increasing fees the Christian pays on baptism, marriage, and funerals.
- Popes also permitted the sale of indulgences This was a reduction of the punishment that a sinner would suffer in purgatory after death. These were first granted during the Crusades, when the pope agreed to cancel penalties a crusader committed. But later, indulgences were granted not only for service, but also for money contributions to the Church.
- By the 1500s, people could buy indulgences for dead relatives. Indulgences became increasingly popular in the Middle Ages as a reward for displaying piety and doing good deeds
- The woodcut on the right portrays the Pope as the Antichrist, signing and selling indulgences. It is from Luther's 1521 *Passional Christi und Antichristi*.



Martin Luther

- Was the son of a wealthy peasant, who went on to study law.
- Several of his friends were killed when the plague swept through Germany.
- In 1505 during a summer storm, Luther vowed to become a monk.
- He joined an Augustinian monastery, devoting himself to fasting, long hours in prayer, pilgrimage, and frequent confession.



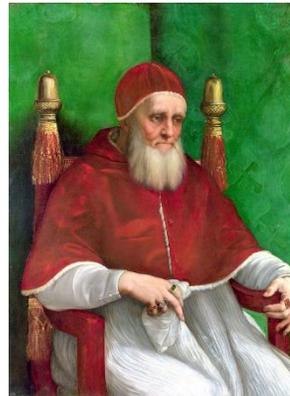
“As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs”

Explain the role each of these figures had in the start of the Reformation:

Martin Luther



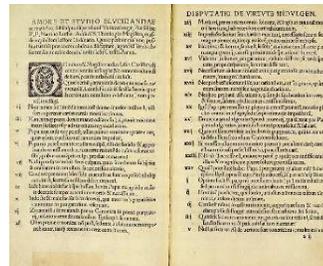
Julius II & the Reformation



Johann Tetzel



What were the 95 Theses?



Luther's Reforms:

Luther's ideas won widespread support:

- Clergy – Many among the clergy agreed with his criticism of Church abuses.
- Townspeople – Some people resented paying Church taxes which were sent to Rome.
- Peasants – They bore a heavy burden of Church taxes, so Luther's reforms appealed to them.
- Town governments – Some towns were eager to take over Church property and set up independent churches.
- German princes – Some princes supported Luther as they wanted to assert their independence from the Holy Roman emperor. These princes were also eager to seize Church lands and to stop the flow of money to Rome.

Protestants – When the Holy Roman emperor tried to force German princes to remain loyal to the pope, they protested. They became known as Protestants.

Peasant Revolt -- In 1524, peasants in southern Germany began an armed rebellion. (Peasant's Revolt). At first, Luther supported them, but then withdrew his support when he heard about burning, looting and killing. The Revolt was stamped out by German princes and nearly 100,000 were killed.



Luther died in 1546

- By the time Luther died, about half the princes in Germany were Protestant.
- Charles V tried to force the Lutheran princes back into the Catholic Church.
- Neither side could win the war.
- Peace of Augsburg – 1555 – each prince could choose whether his lands would be Catholic or Protestant. Individual rulers could determine the religion of a territory.

Switzerland

Switzerland emerged as a center of the Protestant Reformation.

Ulrich Zwingli – abolished Catholic Mass, Confessions, and indulgences.

He allowed priests to marry.



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