

**Origins of the Renaissance**  
(pages 298-303)  
**Study Guide 11-1**

1. In what ways did the Black Death produce positive results?
  
2. Who was Marco Polo?
  
3. Looking at the map on page 299, where did Marco Polo begin his journey?
  
4. How was Marco Polo's route to Asia different from his return home?
  
5. What was the black stone that kept a fire going better than wood?
  
6. What ancient trade route did Marco Polo travel?
  
7. What impact did Marco Polo's travel have on Europe?
  
8. Name 4 cities that became major trading centers in Italy.
  
9. What two important roles did Italian cities play in trade?
  
10. Italy was not a single country, rather it was made up of these.
  
11. Looking at the map on page 301, what part of Italy are all four major trading cities located?

## Origins of the Renaissance

(pages 298-303)

12. What was a signoria?

13. In what ways did signoria compete with each other?

14. Why were the bankers in Florence so rich and powerful?

15. What is interest?

16. Who was Florence's richest family?

17. Name at least 3 things that Cosimo de Medici did to improve Florence.

18. The term Renaissance means "rebirth," what was being reborn?

19. In the boxes below, write a description of the steps of how trade with Asia led to the beginnings of the Renaissance.

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	
			<b>Beginnings of the Renaissance</b>