



Social Studies Virtual Learning

Period 1 Review: Interpreting Primary Documents: *The Prince*

April 10, 2020



AP European History

Lesson: April 10, 2020

Objective/Learning Target: The student will be able to analyze a primary document from Period 1 (1450–1648).

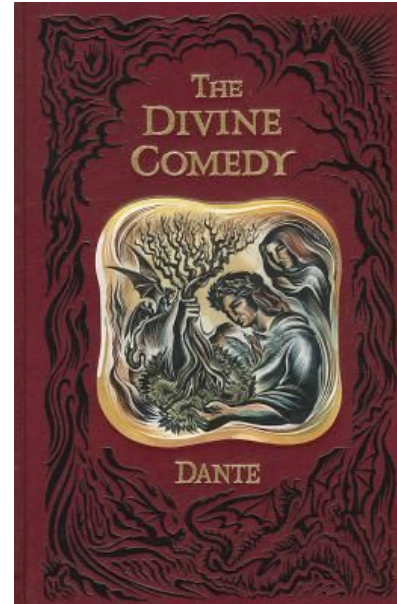
Warm Up

Refresh yourself on some of the following Period 1 concepts:

What were some of the impacts of the printing press?

What are some examples of “vernacular literature?”

Who was Niccolo Machiavelli?



Lesson/Activity

[Watch this video](#) about the life and works of Niccolo Machiavelli.

In the following three slides, there is an excerpt from Machiavelli's most famous piece of writing: *The Prince*.

As you read this excerpt, analyze the work. If you look down to the “Practice” slide, there is a “CHAPPY Chart” to help you analyze primary-source documents.



Lesson/Activity

An excerpt from Machiavelli's *The Prince*

Concerning the Way in Which Princes Should Keep Faith

Every one admits how praiseworthy it is in a prince to keep faith, and to live with integrity and not with craft. Nevertheless our experience has been that those princes who have done great things have held good faith of little account, and have known how to circumvent the intellect of men by craft, and in the end have overcome those who have relied on their word. You must know there are two ways of contesting, (*) the one by the law, the other by force; the first method is proper to men, the second to beasts; but because the first is frequently not sufficient, it is necessary to have recourse to the second.

Lesson/Activity (continued from previous slide)

Therefore it is necessary for a prince to understand how to avail himself of the beast and the man. This has been figuratively taught to princes by ancient writers, who describe how Achilles and many other princes of old were given to the Centaur Chiron to nurse, who brought them up in his discipline; which means solely that, as they had for a teacher one who was half beast and half man, so it is necessary for a prince to know how to make use of both natures, and that one without the other is not durable. A prince, therefore, being compelled knowingly to adopt the beast, ought to choose the fox and the lion; because the lion cannot defend himself against snares and the fox cannot defend himself against wolves.

Lesson/Activity (continued from previous slide)

Therefore, it is necessary to be a fox to discover the snares and a lion to terrify the wolves. Those who rely simply on the lion do not understand what they are about. Therefore a wise lord cannot, nor ought he to, keep faith when such observance may be turned against him, and when the reasons that caused him to pledge it exist no longer. If men were entirely good this precept would not hold, but because they are bad, and will not keep faith with you, you too are not bound to observe it with them....

Practice

[Follow this link](#) to a CHAPPY Chart template. This graphic organizer will help you analyze not only the words of a primary document, but also to consider the author's point of view as well as the historical context.

Complete a CHAPPY Chart regarding the excerpt from *The Prince* on the previous three slides.

What do you think about Machiavelli's opinions? Are they applicable today, or should they only be considered in the context of Machiavelli's time?