

The **Reformation** was the **religious reform₂ movement** in the 1500s that led to the **separation** of Protestant churches from the Roman Catholic Church.

► This split was due to different **theological, political,** and **economic** ideas.

Beliefs and Ideas		Catholic Church During the Reformation	Reformation Ideas (Protestant)
Theological	Approach to God	Catholics approached God through the intervention of the saints and the Virgin Mary.	Each person should have a personal relationship with God.
	Who can understand the Bible?	The Mass and the Bible were only in Latin, a language that the people did not understand.	Worship services and the Bible should be in the language that the people speak.
	Who can read the Bible?	Only monks and priests were allowed to read the Bible.	Everyone should be able to read the Bible.
Political	How much political power should the Church have?	The Church believed that it should be a large, wealthy, and powerful institution, roughly equal to a king.	The Reformers thought that the Church should be controlled by local priests.
Economic	Can the church sell forgiveness for sin?	The Church sold indulgences ₄ to pardon sins.	People can only have their sins forgiven by God through their personal faith.

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Which situation is theological? Explain.

- A A businessman wants to read the Bible.**
- B A wealthy nobleman wants to buy forgiveness for his sins.**
- C A powerful church leader declares war on a kingdom.**

Which situation is political? Explain.

- A A businessman wants to read the Bible.**
- B A parishioner wants to buy forgiveness for his sins.**
- C A powerful church leader declares war on a kingdom.**

Which situation is economic? Explain.

- A A businessman wants to read the Bible.**
- B A parishioner wants to buy forgiveness for his sins.**
- C A powerful church leader declares war on a kingdom.**

In your own words, what was the Reformation?

1. Scan the graphic organizer to determine information needed.
2. Read each paragraph carefully to find the information. (underline)
3. Complete the graphic organizer. (write)

Major Figures	Martin Luther German monk 1483 – 1546
Theological Ideas	
Political Ideas	
Economic Ideas	

Martin Luther

¹Martin Luther was a German monk who studied the Bible carefully. ²He disagreed with the Church about how souls are saved. ³The Church taught that doing religious rituals₁ and good works₂ would ensure salvation. ⁴Luther said the path to God was through faith alone. ⁵Forgiveness could not be granted by a church. ⁶Rather, it was given by God to each person who accepted Him. ⁷Luther's beliefs led him to adopt predestination, the idea that God's will determined who would have salvation.

⁸In 1517, Luther wrote his *95 Theses*, a list of questions to discuss. ⁹These opinions got him into trouble with the Church. ¹⁰As a result, Luther was excommunicated₃. ¹¹Luther's leaving the Catholic Church was a reason for many nobles to leave too.

¹²Luther sent the *95 Theses* to the Church arguing against the sale of indulgences, which was a big part of the Catholic Church's revenue.

1. Scan the graphic organizer to determine information needed.
2. Read each paragraph carefully to find the information. (underline)
3. Complete the graphic organizer. (write)

Major Figures	Desiderius Erasmus 1466 – 1536 Dutch priest
Theological Ideas	
Political Ideas	
Economic Ideas	

Desiderius Erasmus

(des-i-deer-ee-uhs ih-raz-mes)

¹⁵Desiderius Erasmus was a Dutch priest who wanted to reform the Church. ¹⁶He believed Church teachings should be easy for all to understand, and that all should be able to read the Bible, not just the clergy. ¹⁷To further this idea, Erasmus made new, more accurate translations of the Bible.

¹⁸Although Erasmus agreed with many of the complaints made by Luther, he never broke with the Church. ¹⁹Instead, he favored reformation from within the Catholic Church. ²⁰Erasmus also agreed with the traditional Catholic position that all people have free will.

²¹He traveled across Europe and wrote dozens of books. ²²In addition to writing theological texts, Erasmus wrote *Education of a Christian Prince* and dedicated it to the young King Charles of Spain. ²³In it, Erasmus applied honor and truthfulness to the running of a country in a Christian manner.

1. Scan the graphic organizer to determine information needed.
2. Read each paragraph carefully to find the information. (underline)
3. Complete the graphic organizer. (write)

Major Figures	John Calvin 1509 – 1564 French theologian and reformer
Theological Ideas	
Political Ideas	
Economic Ideas	

John Calvin

²⁴In 1536, John Calvin published a defense of a theological position.

²⁵Calvin believed anything not clearly mentioned in the Bible should be rejected. ²⁶He disliked dancing and fancy clothing. ²⁷As a result of his beliefs, he had to leave France and move to Geneva, Switzerland. ²⁸Calvin

helped to reform and combine civil government and church in Geneva.

²⁹He created a strict set of laws with the church as the main disciplinarian.

³⁰Calvin's Bible beliefs even led him to ban dancing.

³¹In mid-1500s, Geneva became a safe haven for Protestants from other countries. ³²These refugees began to follow Calvin's ideas. ³³Soon Calvinism became the most common form of Protestantism in Europe.

³⁵Before Calvin, the wealthy wore expensive clothes. ³⁶Calvin banned fancy clothes in Geneva, and this idea became popular. ³⁷Everyone was to dress in simple, dark clothing, with no decoration.

Skill Closure

1. Answer questions about the Reformation. (use text and graphic organizer)

1. Describe Martin Luther's views on indulgences.

2. Describe Erasmus' ideas about the reading of the Bible.

Concept Closure

Read the question. Explain your answer.

Mia was asked to name the Beliefs and Ideas of the Reformation. Her answer was Theological and Political. Why is her answer incorrect? Explain.

Summary Closure

What did you learn today about describing the theological, political, and economic ideas of the Reformation?

Word Bank

- ▶ reform movement
- ▶ separation
- ▶ theological
- ▶ political
- ▶ economic

Use the text and graphic organizer to answer these questions about the Reformation.

1. Describe how the ideas of Martin Luther influenced the Reformation.
2. Describe how the ideas of Desiderius Erasmus influenced the Reformation.
3. Describe how the ideas of John Calvin influenced the Reformation.
4. Describe some similarities and differences among Martin Luther, Erasmus, and Calvin.
5. Who do you think was the most important figure of the Reformation? Why?

Use the text and graphic organizer to answer these questions about the Reformation.

1. Martin Luther strongly expressed his disapproval of the church. How was this important to the Reformation?

Kiko's answer to the question above:

His disapproval caused him to translate the Bible into many different languages. He did this so everyone could read the Bible.

Why is her answer incorrect? Explain.

2. How was Erasmus' opinion about free will different from the church's opinion?

Mouda's answer to the question above:

Erasmus' opinion about free will was different from the church's because he believed in predestination.

Why is her answer incorrect? Explain.

After studying the text, answer the question below.

If you had to choose, which of the three theologians - Martin Luther, Desiderius Erasmus, John Calvin - would you most agree with? Why? Give examples.

