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# Causes and Consequences of The Early Modern Era

— Changes That Occurred Between —  
1500's-1600's

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## Changes to the Landscape of Europe - Cause

- By 1500 population of Europe began to rise rapidly because of advancements in agriculture
- Agriculture was the backbone of the economy
- In many places Agricultural workers were no longer tied to their lord's manor, many had their own land or rented land to farm on
- Other people moved to towns to earn a living in the wide variety of occupations there

## Changes to the Landscape of Europe - Consequence

- Towns and cities of Europe began to grow very quickly!
- The landscape of Europe began to gradually change from a rural one to an urban one
  - Less people living in the country working on farms, more people moving to the city to work there!
- This eventually leads to the Industrial Revolution!

## Changes to the Economy - Cause

- Overseas exploration led to a dramatic increase in trade
- This trade began to link different parts of the world more closely together
- Europeans built permanent settlements around the world, especially in North America
- European countries established empires in many parts of the world by 1700

## Changes to the Economy - Consequences

- The growth of trade and industry led to the growth of THE MIDDLE CLASS
- The middle class, made up of landowners and merchants, had many more opportunities to expand with the increase in trade
- The emergence of the middle class disrupted the old social structure of lords and serfs

## Changes to People's Views of the World - Cause

- Humanism, thinking human thought was superior to religion, changed artwork and literature during the 1500's
- People began to believe that life of the world around them was much more interesting than religion
- Authors began to write stories about everyday life, historical events, and love
  - Shakespeare wrote his famous works during this time and got actors to perform them at the Globe theatre
- The writing was in the language of everyday people instead of latin
- The Printing Press was invented

## Changes to People's Views of the World - Consequences

- Ideas of humanism spread RAPIDLY and books became much more widely available to regular people so people finally learned how to READ AND WRITE!
- More and more schools were opened up in town and more and more children went to them
- These children were educated with these new books and ideas that would forever change the way people saw the world!
- People also started to enjoy popular culture - For example, they would go to the theatre to watch Shakespeare's plays

## Changes in Science - Cause

- 1543: Copernicus challenged the medieval belief of the Earth being the centre of the universe
- 1632: Galileo proves that the sun is the centre of the solar system
- 1620: Francis Bacon published a book declaring that the traditional methods of science were faulty. He proposed a method of systematic research that is known as "The Scientific Method".
- 1660's: Isaac Newton created a new theory about the law of gravity. "What goes up must come down"
- The development of science happened because of new inventions and technologies that were created - the telescope, the microscope, timekeeping devices, items that helped with trade, farming, and industry, even some that were designed to help mothers with young children!

## Changes in Science - Consequence

- Destroyed thousand year old tradition of respect for religious authority
  - Science proved the Church's teaching were incorrect!
- It began to seem that science could unlock all secrets of the world and that religion was no longer needed to provide explanations for the mysteries of life
- The combination of scientific knowledge and technological skills would eventually lead to THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION! Which in turn helped to lead to the modern world that we live in today.