



Clement VII

1475-1534 A.D. Pope who refused to sanction the divorce of Henry VIII from Catherine of Aragon. This led to Henry's eventual abandonment of the Roman Catholic Church, instead making himself the supreme head of his own religion.



Hernando Cortés

1485-1547 A.D. Spanish conquistador and explorer who conquered the Aztec Empire in Mexico for Spain and was made governor of the territory.



Leo X

1475-1521 A.D. Giovanni de Medici of Florentine, son of Lorenzo de Medici. During his reign as pope, he excommunicated Martin Luther, marking the beginning of the reformation.



Ferdinand Magellan

1480-1521 A.D. Portuguese navigator and explorer whose expedition to find a western route to Indonesia was blown off course, thus discovering a thoroughfare at the southern tip of South America. Named after him, the Strait of Magellan allowed him passage to return to Spain. However, he was speared to death while on an island in the Philippines, leaving the few survivors of his crew to complete the first circumnavigation of the globe.



Martin Luther

1483-1546 A.D. German theologian and founder of the Reformation, Protestantism, and the Lutheran church. His resistance to the growing worldliness of the papacy and his belief that salvation comes by faith and not works caused his excommunication from the Catholic Church.



Michelangelo Buonarroti

1475-1564 A.D. Italian Renaissance painter, sculptor, poet, and architect whose artistic talents blessed the Christian world. Known for many of his remarkable works, he is mostly remembered for his sculptures of *David* and the *Pieta*, and the painted ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.



Henry VIII

1491-1547 A.D. King of England who, due to a divorce from his wife, Catherine of Aragon, broke from the Catholic Church. He initiated the Act of Supremacy, making himself Head of the Church of England, resolving his clerical conflicts over his six marriages. Stripping the pope of his jurisdiction, this allowed Lutheran principles to make an impact in the church.



Lucrezia Borgia

1480-1519 A.D. Daughter of Pope Alexander VI and famous figure of the Italian Renaissance, the Duchess of Ferrara was a patron of the arts and education. Her brilliant court appealed to many artists and poets. Managing to escape the hostile atmosphere of her family, she devoted her life to charity and education.



Thomas Cranmer

1489-1556 A.D. English reformer and first Protestant archbishop of Canterbury, he was instrumental as an advisor of Henry VIII and Edward VI. Convicted of heresy by Mary I, a Roman Catholic, he was burned at the stake.



Francisco Pizarro

1475-1541 A.D. Spanish conquistador and explorer who conquered the Inca Empire of Peru, establishing the city of Lima as its capital.



Ulrich (Huldreich) Zwingli

1484-1531 A.D. Swiss Reformation leader who spurred the birth of the Reformation throughout Switzerland by his sermons on the absolute authority of the Bible.



Ignatius Loyola

1491-1556 A.D. Spanish Jesuit priest whose original visions were of military glory. After a life-changing conversion, he hung up his sword to live the apostolic life of a missionary, eventually founding "The Society of Jesus."