

## Reader's Guide

**R***enaissance and Reformation: Primary Sources* presents eighteen full or excerpted documents written by people who lived during the Renaissance and Reformation period. The autobiographical essays, diary entries, poems, trial testimonies, and letters in this volume reflect the experiences of religious reformers, world leaders, early scientists, authors, and artists. Some entries such as William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* and Miguel de Cervantes's *Don Quixote* display just some of the extensive literature and drama that was being written during the Renaissance period. Other excerpts, including Martin Luther's "The Ninety-Five Theses" and Teresa de Ávila's *The Life of Teresa of Jesus*, are meant to detail the causes of the Protestant Reformation and the experiences of people living through the Catholic Reformation.

### Format

*Renaissance and Reformation: Primary Sources* is divided into six chapters. Each chapter focuses on a specific theme: Humanism, Renaissance Arts and Science, Drama and Literature, Protestant Reformation, Catholic Reformation, and Witch-



hunts. All of the chapters open with a historical overview, followed by the appropriate primary source documents.

Each excerpt is divided into six sections:

- **Introductory material** places the document and its author in a historical context
- **Things to remember** offers readers important background information about the featured text
- **Excerpt** presents the document in its original format
- **What happened next** discusses the impact of the document on both the speaker and his or her audience
- **Did you know** provides interesting facts about each document and its author
- **For more information** presents sources for more information on documents and speakers

### Additional Features

Many of the *Renaissance and Reformation: Primary Sources* contain sidebar boxes examining related excerpts, events, and issues, while more than forty black-and-white photos help illustrate the text. Each excerpt is accompanied by a glossary running alongside the primary document that defines terms, people, and ideas discussed within each document. Also included within the volume is a timeline of important events and a subject index of the topics discussed in *Renaissance and Reformation: Primary Sources*.

### Comments and suggestions

We welcome your comments on this work as well as your suggestions for topics to be featured in future editions of *Renaissance and Reformation: Primary Sources*. Please write: Editors, *Renaissance and Reformation: Primary Sources*, U•X•L, 27500 Drake Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48331-3535; call toll-free: 1-800-877-4253; fax: 248-699-8097; or send e-mail via [www.gale.com](http://www.gale.com).