

This is the first of what will be part of an ongoing educational program about Italians, and the Italian American experience in the United States.

ITALIANS WHO CHANGED THE WORLD

CHRITOPHER COLUMBUS ,

OR CHRISTOFORO COLOMBO, AS WAS HIS ITALIAN NAME, WAS BORN IN GENOA IN 1451 AND REACHED THE AMERICAS IN HIS SEARCH FOR THE ORIENT. HE REACHED AS FAR A NICARAGUA AND HONDURAS. COLUMBUS DIED IN SPAIN IN 1506.

MARCO POLO, (1254- 1324)

TRAVELLED TO ASIA AND INSPIRED CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS TO SEARCH FOR A PASSAGE TO THE ORIENT.

LEONARDO DA VINCI, (1452- 1519)

THE GENIUS WHO STUDIED NEW IDEAS THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE. HE WAS A PAINTER, A SCULPTOR, ARCHITECT, ENGINEER, BOTANIST. HIS FAMOUS PAINTING OF 'MONA LISA' IS IN THE LOUVRE MUSEUM IN PARIS. DA VINCI WAS THE FIRST EXPLORER TO INTRODUCE NEW CONCEPTS LIKE THE CALCULATOR, A FLIHT MACHINE SIMILAR TO THE HELICOPTER, A TANK, AND CONCENTRATED SOLAR POWER.

MICHAELANGELO, (1475-1564)

ONE OF THE ,OST FAMOUS ARTISTS OF THE RENAISSANCE. HIS WORKS INCLUDED THE "David" and the "PIETA' STATUES ANT THE CEILING PAINTING OF ROME'S SISTINE CHAPEL, INCLUDING THE "LAST JUDGMENT" .

GALILEO GALILEL, (1564-1642)

THE MATHEMEITICIAN AND ASTRONOMER "FATHER OF SCIENCE" WHO IMPROVED THE TELESCOPE AND AND STUDIED TH MILKY WAY. HE SUPPORTED COPERNICUS OBSERVATIONS THAT THE WORLD CIRCLED THE SUN, NOT THE SUN CIRCLING THE WORLD AS WAS BELIEVED BEFORE.

ANTONIO STRADIVARI. (1644-1737)
ARTISAN WHO CRAFTED STRING INSTRUMENTS SUCH AS
VIOLINS, CELLOS, GUITARS, VIOLAS, AND HARPS. HE
PRODUCED 1,116 INSTRUMENTS OF WHICH SOME 650
SURVIVED.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE (1820-1910)
BORN IN FLORENCE, SHE DEFIED EXPECTATIONS OF THE
TIME AND IMPROVED NURSING. HER WRITINGS SPARKED
WORLDWIDE HEALTHCARE REFORM. SHE ESTABLISHED ST.
THOMAS HOSPITAL AND THE NIGHTINGALE SCHOOL FOR
NURSES.

LUIGI PURANDELLO, (1867-1936)
PLAYWRIGHT, NOVELIST, AND SHORT STORY WRITER, HE WAS
THE WINNER OF THE 1934 NOBEL PRIZE FOR LITERATURE.

AND DO NOT FORGET –

AMERIGO VESPUCCI, the navigator whose name was given to the
new continent,

GIOVANNI CABOT, (JOHN Cabot) who claimed North America for
England.

MARCO, DA NIZZA, the first European in the U.S. Southwest.

ENRICO TONTI, founder of territory that eventually became Illinois,
and he colonized Arkansas and Louisiana

CONSTANTINO BRUMIDI, painter of the frescoes that grace the
Senate and House chambers of the U.S. Capital building and even the
Rotunda Dome.

AUGUSTE BERTHOLDI, son of an Italian immigrant to France who
sculpted the Statue of Liberty.

ALESANDRO VOLTA inventor of the electric battery.

AMADEO GIANNINI, founder of the Bank of America.

GUGLIELMO MARCONI, winner of the 1909 Nobel Prize in physics for wireless radio transmission.

ENRICO FERMI, who helped the U.S. war effort by creating the first sustained nuclear reaction.

FRANCESCO VIGO. The first Italian to become an American citizen. Fluent in several Native American languages, he used his friendship with Native Americans to gain their support for the American cause during the Revolution. Vigo spent his entire fortune advancing money and supplies. He died a pauper in 1836. Forty years later, the American government awarded his heirs \$50,000 for his service to the War of Independence as a colonel, financier, and intelligence officer.

FILIPO MAZZEI, who influenced Thomas Jefferson to include the words "all men are created equal" in the Declaration of Independence.

WILLIAM PACA of Maryland and CESAR RODNEY of Delaware, were both Italian Americans who signed the Declaration of Independence. (Pica whose original family name was Pace was from Benevento, Campania; Rodney descended from an English-Italian family surnamed Caesare.)