Renaissance History Test

Name __________________________ date _____________

The Middle Ages came to an end during the 14th century. Below is a list of five major inventions or events that led to its demise. Briefly describe (2-4 sentences) how each affected the lives of the people of Europe.

1. The introduction of gunpowder

2. The introduction of the printing press

3. The Black Plague

4. The growth of cities

5. The age of exploration

6. Define the word "Renaissance", where does it come from and what does it refer to?

7. The major philosophy of the Renaissance was “Humanism”. What were the major tenants (teachings) of this philosophy?

8. Francesco Petrarch is considered the first “modern man” and the father of “Humanism”. During his lifetime he was credited with a number of “firsts”. What were they? Describe at least four.

9. Petrarch was deeply impacted by “Laura”. Describe who she was and how knowing her affected Petrarch’s life.
10. Describe a “Renaissance” education- what subjects would be taught?

11. What style of poetry did Petrarch popularize? 

12. Who did Petrarch write his “Secretum” letters to and why did he choose to address them to this person?

Attached is a map of Italy, accurately fill in the following information on the map:

13. Locate and label the five major city states along with each city state’s ruling city.

14. Locate and label the two seas that surround Italy.

15. Locate and label the three major islands that are off the Southern and Western coast of Italy.

16. Below list each of the five major Italian city states and describe each one (geography, role during the Renaissance, etc.)
   a.)

   b.)

   c.)

   d.)

   e.)