

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What happened on October 31st, 1517 in Wittenberg?
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What did Martin Luther believe about the foundation of Christian beliefs?
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What source did Martin Luther use to inform his teachings?
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What did Luther mean when he said “the nearer one gets to Rome, the farther one gets from God?”
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What beliefs and actions might have made Martin Luther a “rebel” among Catholic monks?
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. How did Pope Leo X respond to Luther’s teachings?

7. Why did Luther wish to translate the Bible from Latin into vernacular German?
  8. Some scholars have argued that, without the invention of the printing press in the 1400s, there could have been no Protestant Reformation in the 1500s. Explain why.
  9. While there remains one unified Catholic Church government, many different Protestant churches have emerged over time. What is one explanation as to why this is the case?
  10. Who was John Calvin. Describe his religious theocracy in Geneva, Switzerland.

## ANSWER KEY

1. What happened on October 31st, 1517 in Wittenberg?

***The day when Martin Luther nailed his “95 Thesis” to the door of Wittenberg church. Some historians mark this event as the start of the Protestant Reformation.***

2. What did Martin Luther believe about the foundation of Christian beliefs?

***That a Christian’s identity and hope for the future is based on the grace of God and faith in Jesus, rather than on church membership, church teaching or acts of service or obedience. His beliefs undermined the important role of Church leaders in leading the souls (and minds) of the faithful.***

3. What source did Martin Luther use to inform his teachings?

***He drew his ideas directly from his readings of the bible, and did not value the teachings of other Church leaders for spiritual guidance.***

4. What did Luther mean when he said “the nearer one gets to Rome, the farther one gets from God?”

***He was saying that the more powerful the church leader, the more likely they are to be corrupt.***

5. What beliefs and actions might have made Martin Luther a “rebel” among Catholic monks?

***He was a monk who married a nun and had a large family (breaking vows of celibacy). He taught that all Christians could be priests, thus undermining the authority of the clergy.***

6. How did Pope Leo X respond to Luther’s teachings?

***He excommunicated Luther (kicked him out of the Church).***

7. Why did Luther wish to translate the Bible from Latin into vernacular German?

***So that every literate German speaker could read and understand the Bible without having to rely on the teachings of the clergy for guidance.***

8. Some scholars have argued that, without the invention of the printing press in the 1400s, there could have been no Protestant Reformation in the 1500s. Explain why.

***Answer will vary. But Luther's ideas may not have spread easily beyond Wittenberg without having been printed and distributed all over Europe.***

9. While there remains one unified Catholic Church government, many different Protestant churches have emerged over time. What is one explanation as to why this is the case?

***Answers will vary. It may be that the Catholic Church had a more strict political hierarchy and set of rules about doctrine and practice, while Protestants had no such source of clear guidance for how to be Christian or lead a church. Without a central authority, every Protestant group could, theoretically, start their own church.***

10. Who was John Calvin. Describe his religious theocracy in Geneva, Switzerland.

***He was a French lawyer who set up a Protestant, theocratic state in Geneva. His religious leaders ran the government and created strict rules to govern behavior based on their understanding of the Bible (eg: the "blue laws")***