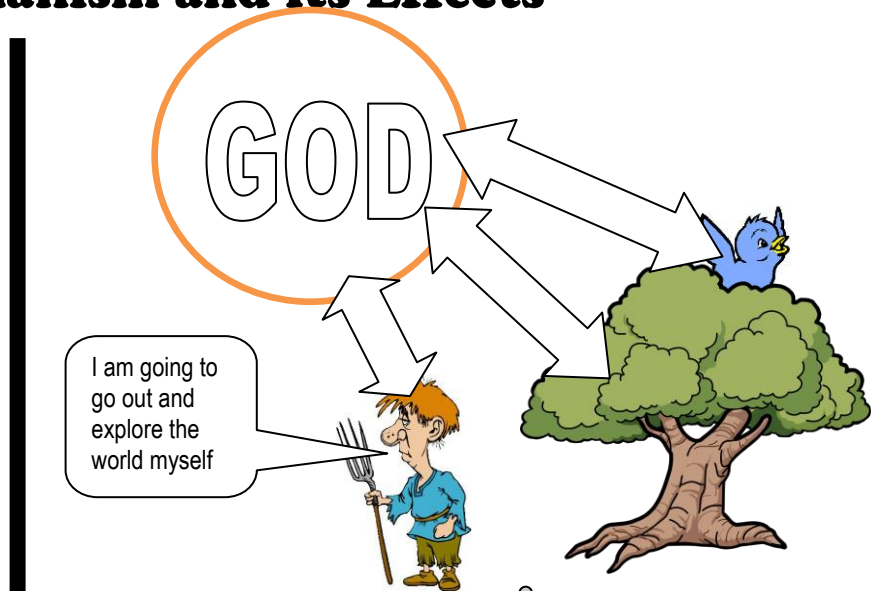


A Crash Course in Humanism and its Effects



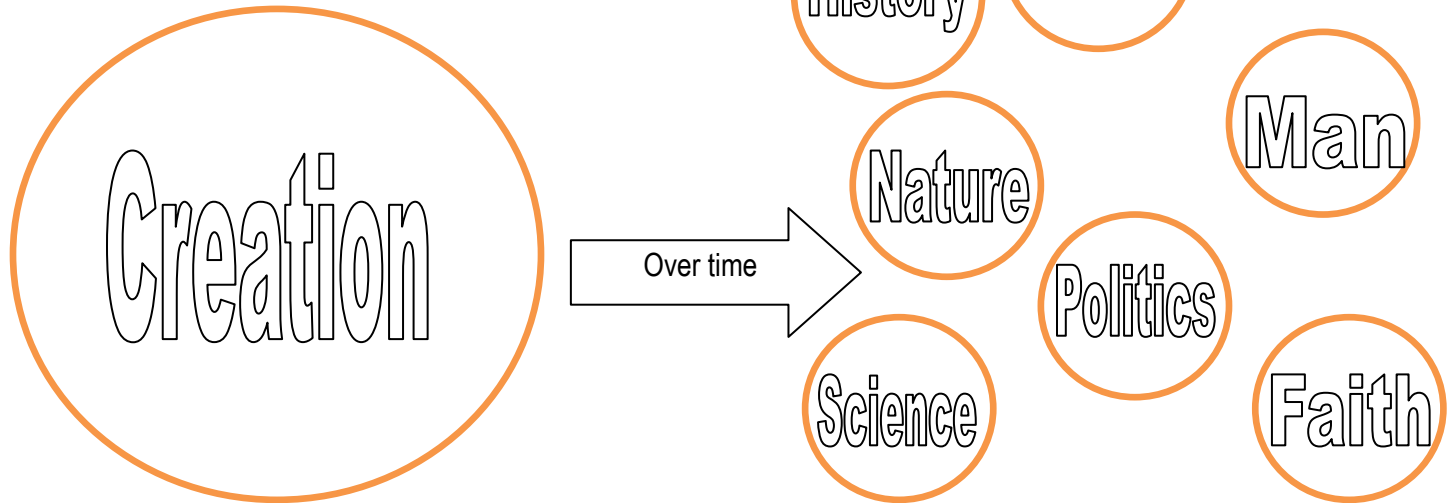
Pre-Humanism World



Post-Humanism

- ❖ Humanism emerges in the 1400s, Renaissance-Europe. Humanism involved the study of the liberal arts, including history, literature and moral philosophy.
- ❖ **IMPORTANT:** Humanists had nothing to do with the secular and often anti-religious interests of movements that go under the name humanism today: to the contrary, Renaissance humanists were deeply committed to Christianity.
- ❖ By studying classical literature and original translations of the Christian bible, Europeans were “returning to the sources.” While they did this, scholars tried to harmonize ancient histories with Christian beliefs.
- ❖ At the same time came the advent of the mechanical printing press – allowing for the mass production of literature.
- ❖ To have knowledge (previously almost exclusively a domain of the religious orders) became fashionable. Europeans began exploring the world around them – in pre-humanist Europe the most honourable calling was that of monks and nuns who withdrew from the world and dedicated their lives to prayer, contemplation, and the glorification of God. Renaissance humanists argued that it was perfectly honourable for Christians to enter into marriage, business relationships, and public affairs. Humanists were active participants in their communities.
- ❖ Leads to applications of Rationalism, Science, Philosophy and subject-specific study.

Basically (really boiled down):



❖ This exploration of the world had a dramatic impact on the course of European development.

1. The Reformation & Religious Crises

2. The rise of the nation-state & Absolutism (Example: France under Louis XIV)

