Martin Luther – Reluctant Revolutionary

name: __________________

In the 1400 and 1500’s many people of Western Europe were starting to resent the Catholic Church because;

1. The Church had grown wealthy and corrupt.
2. The sale of indulgences (paying for forgiveness).
3. They wanted the Bible to be printed in local vernaculars.

Why did poor people especially hate the sale of indulgences?
They felt that they wouldn’t be able to get into Heaven without paying for forgiveness.

What was Luther’s 95 Theses?
A list of grievances against the Catholic Church (particularly regarding the sale of indulgences.

Begin viewing Martin Luther – Reluctant Revolutionary. Stop at 42:30.

What is heresy?
A violation of religious doctrine.

What is “lay justice?”
Lay = secular, or non-religious. Lay justice would be government courts, not church courts.

If a heretic refused to recant he might be sentenced to death “without the shedding of blood.” What does that mean? (Two possibilities)
Hanged or burned (purified by fire).

One hundred years earlier another man (John Hus) brought many of the same complaints against the Church. What happened to him?
Burned at the stake.

Why did people fear excommunication so much?
Because you might not be able to get into Heaven.

What invention helped Luther spread his ideas?
Printing press.

“German money, in violation of nature, flies over the Alps” (to Rome and the Catholic Church). What is Luther trying to do with his propaganda?
He’s too much local money is going to support the lavish lifestyle of the Catholic Church in Rome.

What do they mean by the “democratization of religion?”
The people should be able to read the Bible for themselves and have a greater role in their own spirituality.
Why did many of the German nobles quietly support Luther? (Two reasons)
1. Because they didn't want to pay church taxes to Rome.
2. They knew Luther's ideas were popular among their people.

Luther compares Rome to ...
A whorehouse.

The Catholic Church to this day still requires the Seven Sacraments; Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony, and Holy Orders. Luther argued that he could only find two sacraments in the Bible.

1. Baptism
2. Marriage

One of Luther’s intents was to “cut out the middle man.” What does that mean?
People shouldn't have to go through a priest to talk to God.

As Luther travels to the Diet of Worms to face the Holy Roman Emperor’s tribunal, what does he discover along the way?
He sees that he has the support of most people of Germany.

As he made his way through the city of Worms to the Diet, nine out of ten people were yelling ___________________.
Long live Luther ___________________. The tenth person was yelling Death to the Pope. ___________________.

The verdict of the Diet of Worms was Luther was labeled a heretic ___________________.

On his way back to Wittenberg he is kidnapped by Frederick the Wise (the prince from his region) and kept hidden in his castle. Why does he do this? (two reasons)
1. Because he knew that Luther was in danger of being killed by the Pope's agents.
2. He knew that Luther was popular and it gave him an excuse not to pay church taxes to Rome.

While Luther is kept in the castle, what significant work does he begin?
He starts translating the Bible into German.

Luther has become a hero among the Peasantry, but what action do they take, which Luther does not approve of?
Peasants start rioting, destroying Church property, etc.

Stop at 42:30

This is the start of the Reformation. Shortly after there are uprisings of peasants all over Europe, not only fighting for freedom of faith, but for freedom from serfdom. Over 100,000 peasants are slaughtered in the violence that followed.

How many Protestant sects can you think of?
Baptists, Methodists, Episcopalians, etc.