

# Martin Luther:

[Martin Luther](#)

- Luther was a German Monk and professor of theology at the University in Wittenberg
- Luther translated the Bible to German and believed that people should be able to interpret the Bible for themselves
- Catholic teachings had stressed that both faith and good works were needed to gain salvation
- In Luther's eyes, human beings were powerless in the sight of an almighty God and could never do enough good works to earn salvation
- Luther believed that only faith could grant a person salvation
- He risked excommunication and death



# 95 Theses:

- They were 95 complaints against the Catholic Church posted a church door by Luther
- Were considered a turning point in European History because the power of the Church was decreased and royal power grew
- They were written in Latin, Luther's intention was not to break from the church but to reform it
- Criticized
  - Indulgences
  - Power of the Pope
  - Wealth of the Church



# Showdown with the Church:

- Luther was ordered to recant his teachings
- In 1520, Pope Leo X excommunicated Luther, he burned the excommunication



# Holy Roman Empire:

- Located in modern Germany
- Not a united nation but a patchwork of independent states, each state had its own prince
- The Ruler of the Holy Roman Empire was Charles V (Catholic)



# Diet of Worms- April 1521: [The Diet of Worms](#)

- Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, summoned Luther to a diet in the city Worms
  - Diet--assembly or meeting of German princes
- Luther was again asked to recant his theses, but refused



# Edict of Worms:

- The Catholic Church also issued the Edict of Worms which banned the writings of Luther and labeled him a heretic
- It was a crime to give Luther shelter or food

# The Princes Reformation:

- The Protestant Reformation divided Germany politically
- Princes in Germany converted to Protestantism, ending authority of the Popes in their states
- Charles V tried to force princes to accept Catholicism again, with little success

# The Peace of Augsburg:

- Charles V was forced to allow Lutheranism as a legal religion
- A prince could decide if his realm was to be Lutheran or Catholic
- Lutheran states would have the same legal rights as Catholic states
- The right of the German ruler to determine the religion of his subjects was accepted, but individuals couldn't choose their religion

# Luther's later Life:

- His new Lutheran Church grew
- He married a former nun and had 6 children
- Luther and his wife lived in an old monastery
- Luther lived to be 62 years old

# Exit-slip:

- **Why did Luther post the 95 Theses?**
- **What was the purpose of the Diet of Worms?**
- **What was the Peace of Augsburg?**