

# RENAISSANCE INVENTION

Stradanus's *Nova Reperta*



## FAMILY GUIDE



# Welcome to the Newberry Library!

In this exhibit, you'll learn about a group of pictures called the *Nova Reperta*. They were designed by an artist named Johannes Stradanus (struh-DAWN-us) in the 1580s, over 400 years ago. The name "*Nova Reperta*" means "new discoveries" in Latin, and these pictures show different things that were new to the Europeans of the 1580s. Studying these prints can help us learn about what people thought about the world then and how they used **technology** in their daily lives.

## What Is Technology?

"Technology" is the use of science to create tools or methods for solving problems. (We often call these tools or methods "technologies.") For example, technology could help someone make something, discover new things, or do something faster or more easily.

Some of these technologies, like a clock or a magnet, might be ones that you have in your home!

**What are some other technologies that you use?**

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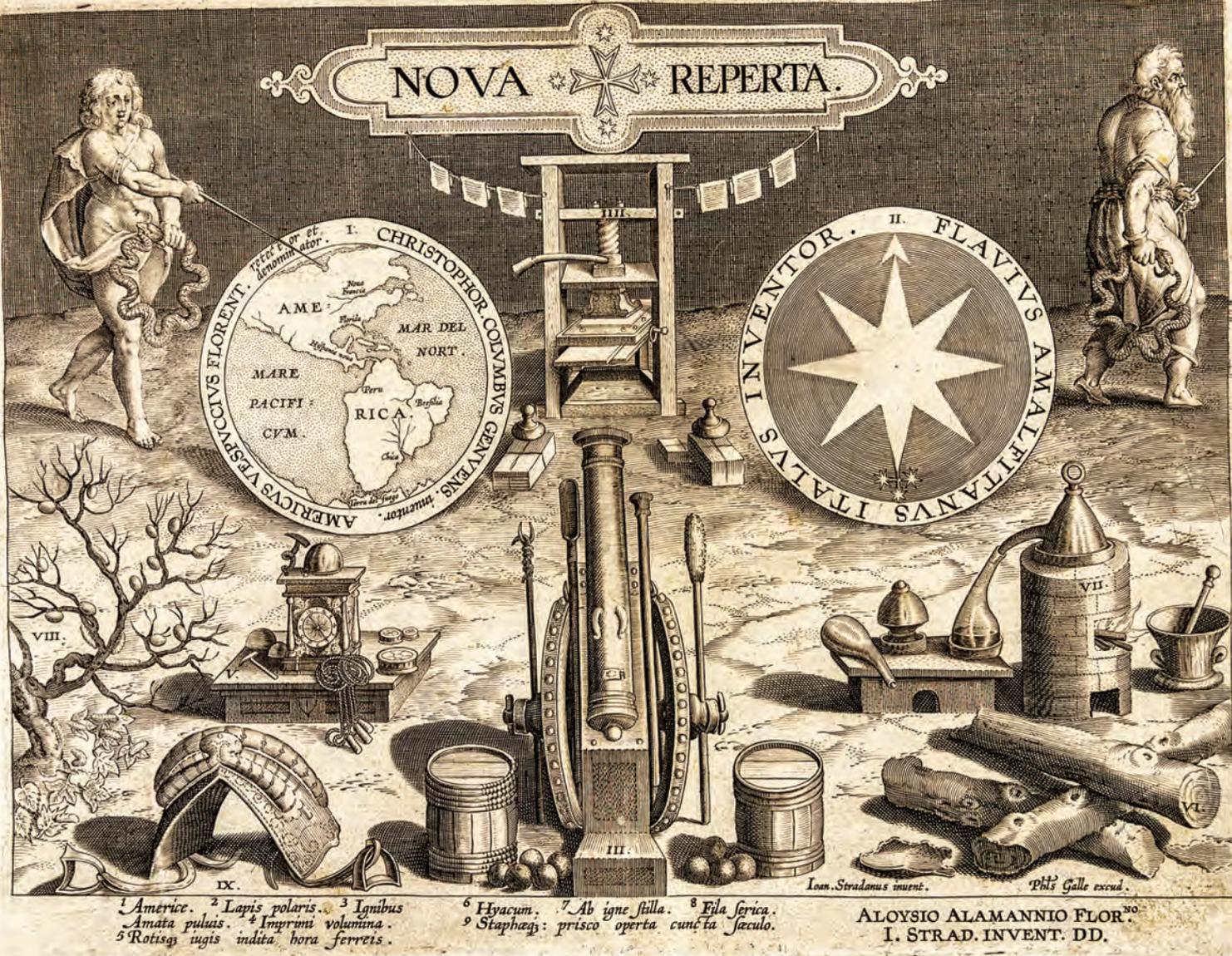
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Technology doesn't have to be modern; rather, some technologies, like the wheel, are very ancient. The *Nova Reperta* shows us some examples of influential technologies from the 1500s—which ones can you spot in this image?

- Stirrups
- A Printing Press
- A Clock
- A Cannon

# Printing Word Search

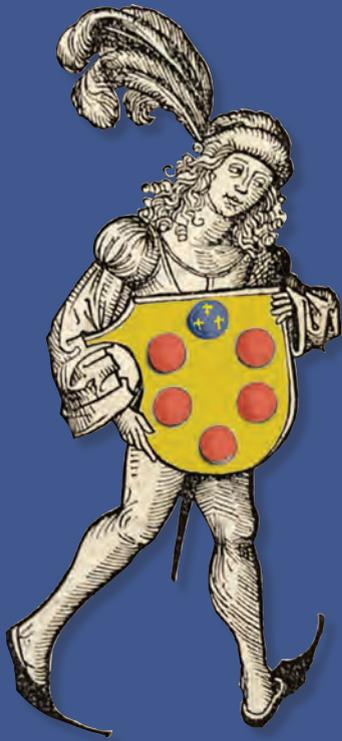
Oh no! Our type has gotten pied (all mixed up)!  
Can you find any of these words in the jumble  
of letters below?



- Copperplate
- Gutenberg
- Engraver
- Ink
- Paper
- Type
- Proofreader
- Incunable
- Woodcut

T C M G F L R N C P R  
C O P P E R P L A T E  
A W O O D C U T J K N  
C P G U T E N B E R G  
L P L T Y K G C I T R  
K A B J P F G B N P A  
D P C O E T B G K R V  
A E I N C U N A B L E  
P R O O F R E A D E R





# Heraldry

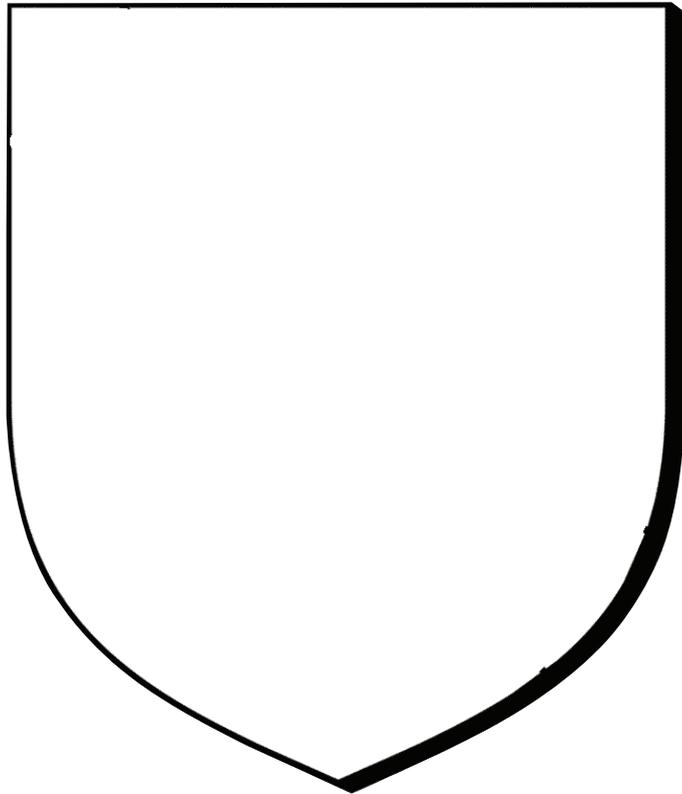
In the Renaissance, many noble or wealthy families had a coat of arms, a shield decorated with a particular combination of colors, patterns, and symbols. Because each family used a different mix of these elements, their coat of arms was unique to them.

In Florence, the Medici family crest (*at left*) featured six mysterious *palle* or balls. These balls might reference pills (“Medici” means doctors) or coins, because the Medici were bankers.

There are three  
Medici coats of arms  
in the exhibition.  
Can you find them?

What story would  
you want to tell with  
your coat of arms?

Draw your own here!



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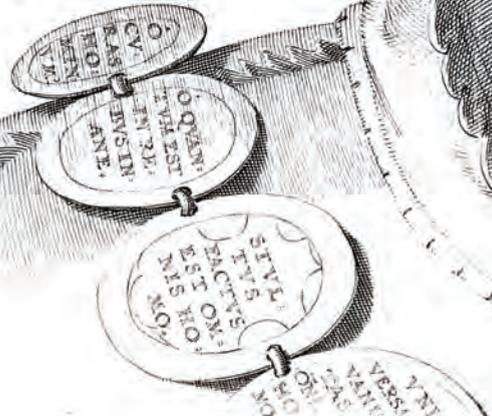
Auricula affini

Ô Caput elle- boro dignum

Hic est mundi punctus a materia gloria nostrae, hic sedes, hic honores gerimus, hic excercemus imperia, hic opus, hinc hinc tumultuatur humanum genus, hic instauramus bella, etiam civilia. Roma



Stultorum infinitus est numerus  
Salomon





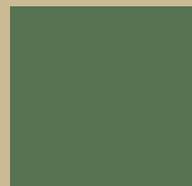
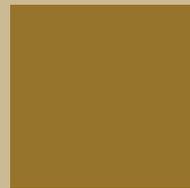
# Color the Fool's Cap Map

There's a map in this cap!

In the Renaissance, many royal courts employed jesters, who were something like clowns or stand-up comedians. Their job was to entertain the members of the court. Jesters might perform tricks, tell jokes, play music, or just do silly things. Many wore distinctive hats like the one in this picture.

Can you add some color to the map  
in this fool's cap?

Here are some favorite  
Renaissance colors to try!



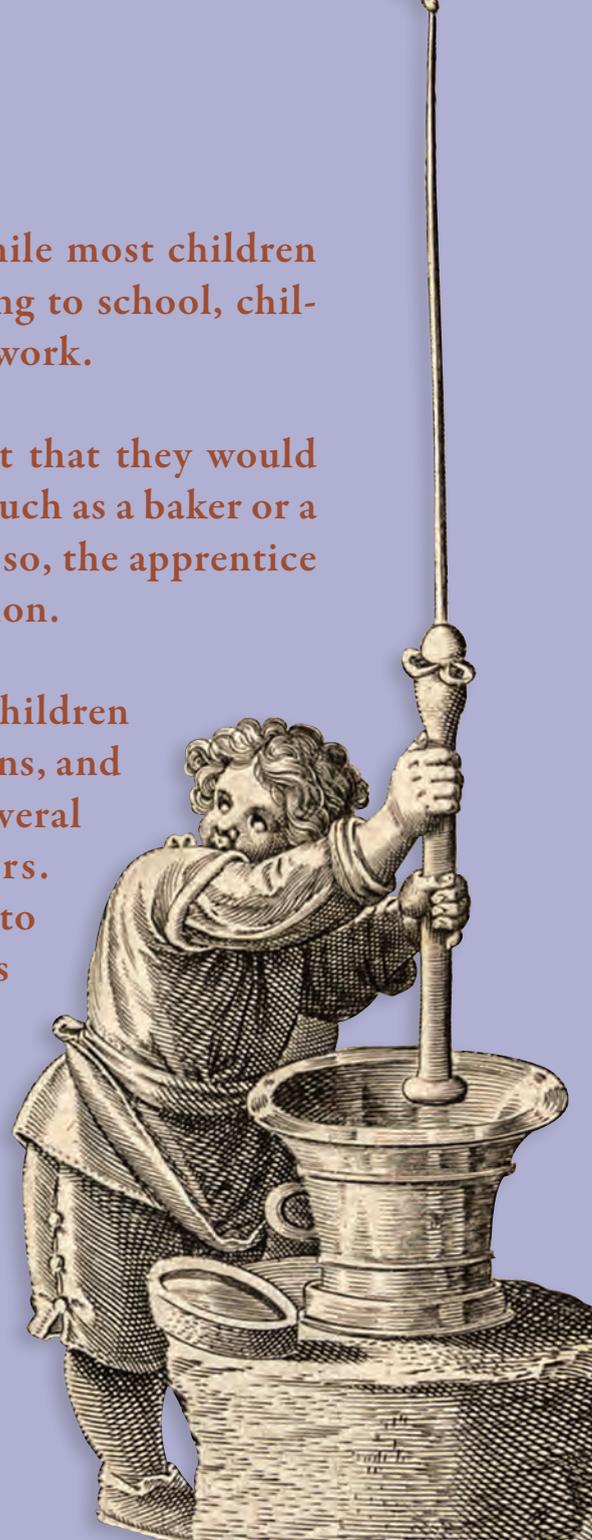
# Apprentices

Childhood was very different in the 1500s. While most children today spend most of their time playing and going to school, children in the Renaissance were often expected to work.

Some children became apprentices. This meant that they would work for someone who had a particular trade—such as a baker or a printer—for a set length of time. By doing so, the apprentice would be trained in the master's profession.

Apprenticeship usually started when children were in their early teens, and could range from several months to ten years. Masters might have to provide their apprentices with lodging, clothing, or food.

How many children can you spot working in the exhibit?  
What kinds of jobs are they doing?



Many children labored outside the house in other ways. For example, starting as young as 8, girls might work as house servants and boys could help farm. And, of course, children would be expected to help their parents by doing tasks around the house or supporting the family business.

What sort of chores do you help with around your house?



# How Things Work...

The *Nova Reperta* shows how new inventions solved everyday problems. We still use many of them today, like clocks and windmills!



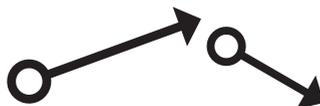
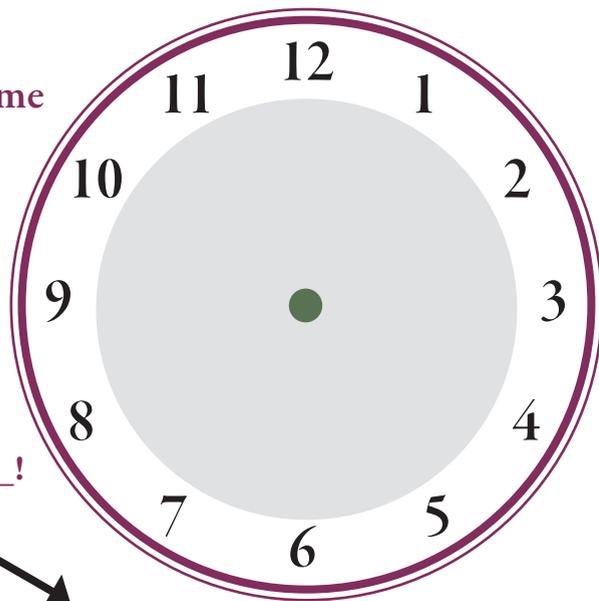
Mechanical clocks helped people measure time accurately. Before the invention of the clock, people used a sundial or listened for the tolling of church bells if they wanted to know the time. But what if it was a cloudy day or you weren't near a church? With mechanical clocks, people could know what time it was no matter where they were.

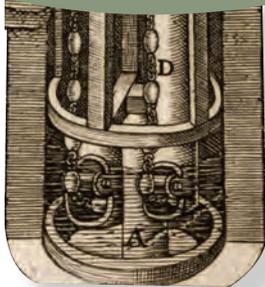
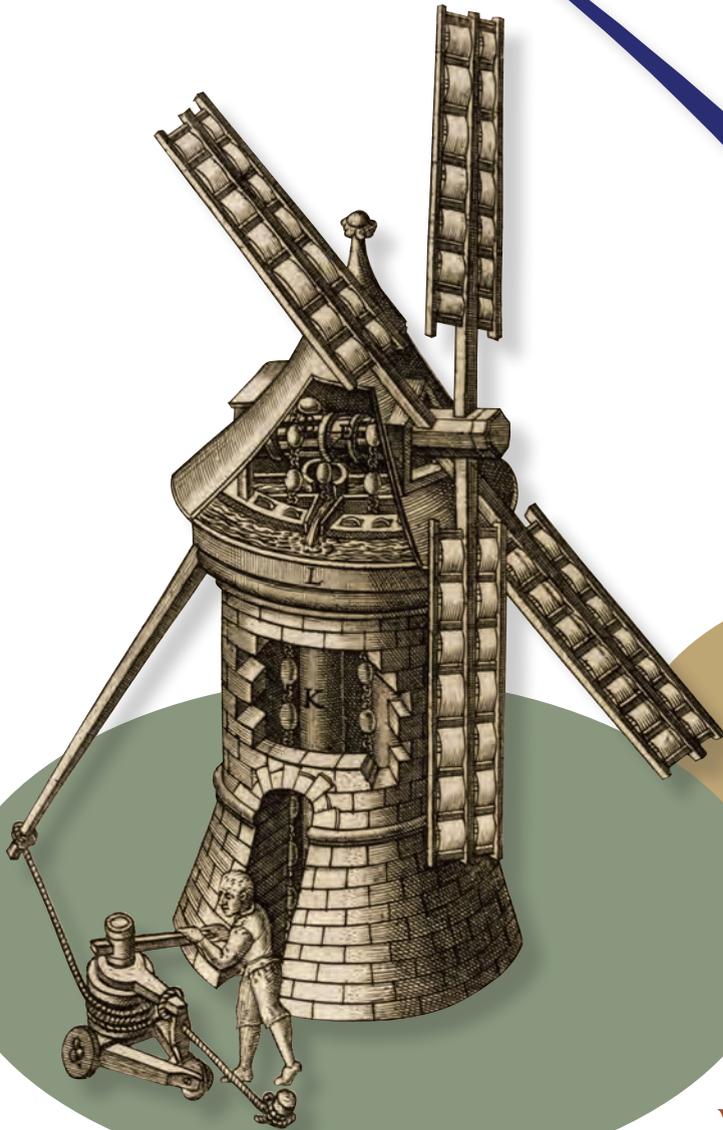
Unlike the digital clocks we use today, mechanical clocks don't show the time in numbers. Instead, they use cogs and gears to turn the hands on the face of the clock.



Can you read the time on the clock in the exhibition?

Draw the position of its hands on the clock face (*at right*) and write the time it shows here: \_\_\_\_\_!





Windmills used the power of the wind to grind grain. When the wind blew, it turned the blades of the windmill. Through a system of gears and pulleys, this motion moved the grindstone, which broke kernels of grain (such as wheat or corn) into smaller pieces to become flour. We still use windmills—called wind turbines—to transform the movement of the wind into electricity.

# RENAISSANCE INVENTION

## Stradanus's *Nova Reperta*

Fall 2020

Curators: Lia Markey & Suzanne Karr Schmidt  
Exhibition Intern: Stephanie Reitzig  
Design: Mary N. Kennedy

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*Renaissance Invention* is supported by Mr. and Mrs. Edward M. Blair, Jr.; Dr. Christine M. Sperling; Pam and Doug Walter; and an anonymous donor. Support for public programs provided by the Samuel H. Kress Foundation.

Most details in this family guide come from the *Nova Reperta* (*New Discoveries*) series, designed by Johannes Stradanus and engraved by Philips Galle in Antwerp circa 1588. Unless specified, the illustrations are from the Newberry collection.

Gallery One: *Nova Reperta*: Title Page (2-3; 10); Book Printing (4, 9); Distillation (8); Magnet (Compass) (back cover). Anonymous, *Cordiform World Map within Fool's Cap*, Antwerp?, circa 1590 (6-7).

Gallery Two: *Nova Reperta*: Oil Painting (cover); Armor Polishing (8); Windmill (11). Johannes Stradanus, designer; Charles de Mallery, engraver, *Vermis Sericus* (*Silkworms*), Antwerp: circa 1590 (8); Johann Christoff Lang, Clock with Astrolabe Face, Augsburg, Germany, circa 1600. Courtesy of the Adler Planetarium (10); Agostino Ramelli, Windmill in *Le diverse et artificiose machine* (*Diverse and Skillful Machines*), Paris: Ramelli, 1588 (11).

Not On View: Hartmann Schedel, author; Michael Wolgemut and Wilhelm Pleydenwurff, artists, Courtier, in *Liber chronicarum* (*The Nuremberg Chronicle*), Nuremberg: Koberger, 1493 (5).

To learn more about the *Nova Reperta* please visit our "Time Machine" at [publications.newberry.org/nova-reperta](https://publications.newberry.org/nova-reperta) and our "Digital Collection in the Classroom" at <https://dcc.newberry.org/collections/nova-reperta>.

