



Name: _____ Date: _____

The Counter Reformation

Because the Protestant Reformation was becoming so popular in Europe, the Roman Catholic Church decided to reform (change) itself. The Pope ordered a group of Bishops to Trent, Italy, in 1545. This group, known as the **Council of Trent**, met for 18 years, 1545-1563. The Council of Trent agreed to the following:

- 1. The Pope was God's representative on Earth.**
- 2. Only the Catholic Church could explain the Bible.**
- 3. The sale of indulgences was wrong and they had to end.**
- 4. The Catholic Church should make a catalog of books people were forbidden to read.**
- 5. A new army of missionaries should be made. They were called Jesuits, or the Society of Jesus. The Jesuits were like soldiers. They fought for the Roman Catholic Church and against Protestantism all over the world. Jesuit missionaries taught in Poland, England, China, India, and in the new world.**
- 6. The Holy Roman Catholic Courts, known as the Inquisition, should punish people who opposed the Catholic religion.**

Many religious wars took place between Roman Catholics and Protestants all over Europe during the 16th (1700s) and the 17th (1800s) centuries. When they finally ended, two major Christian religions existed: Roman Catholicism and Protestantism.

Questions:

1. Why did the Roman Catholic Church call for the Council of Trent?
2. Explain three (3) ways the Council of Trent tried to stop the Protestant Reformation.
3. Do you believe the Council of Trent tried to stop Christians from becoming Protestants? Explain your answer in at least three (3) sentences.
4. What do you think life was like for Muslims and Jews who lived in Europe during this time? Explain your answers in at least three (3) sentences.
5. Look at the map on the back of the handout. Which countries remained Catholic? Which countries became Protestant? What was the major religion in northern Europe? In southern Europe?