



Art History

English Lessons



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Leonardo da Vinci



Leonardo da Vinci was a famous Italian artist born on April 15, 1452, in Vinci, Italy. So his name means “Leonardo from Vinci”. He is known as one of the greatest painters in history. Leonardo painted many famous works, including the *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper*.

He was not only a painter but also a scientist and inventor. He loved to learn about everything, from how the human body works to how machines can be built. His notebooks are full of drawings and ideas for inventions.

He spent most of his life in Italy, working for kings and rich people. He was curious about nature and always tried to understand how things work. He died on May 2, 1519, in France. Leonardo da Vinci was a true genius of art and science.



After reading the text, answer the questions below:

1. **What are two famous paintings created by Leonardo da Vinci?**
2. **What other interests and skills did Leonardo da Vinci have?**
3. **How did Leonardo da Vinci help us understand the human body?**



Look at the paintings below and write two sentences about your feeling:



Answer the questions about yourself:

- 1. Do you like visiting museums? Why/why not?**

- 2. Have you ever tried painting? If yes, did you enjoy it? If not, would you like to do this in the future?**

Answer key to the questions of the text

1. What are two famous paintings created by Leonardo da Vinci?
Mona Lisa and *The Last Supper*
2. What other interests and skills did Leonardo da Vinci have?
Science, inventions, and anatomy.
3. How did Leonardo da Vinci help us understand the human body?
His studies and drawings helped in understanding human anatomy.



For more ideas on how to use masterpieces of Art to teach critical thinking, you can read my blog post here:

<https://www.ruthlessteacher.com/how-to-use-works-of-arts-to-teach-critical-thinking/>

And about the use of images in the language classroom, another of my blog posts here:

<https://www.ruthlessteacher.com/the-use-of-images-in-language-learning/>

I have made a pdf with a set of questions that I use a lot with my students when we study all types of images, you can download it here:

<https://www.ruthlessteacher.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Questions-about-images-in-class.pdf>





Painter

One of the most important and influential figures of the **Renaissance** was the painter, sculptor, architect and engineer, [Leonardo Da Vinci](#) – a man that epitomized the Renaissance humanist ideal. (information from Wikiart).

Paintings

You can see Leonardo's work online here:

<https://www.wikiart.org/en/leonardo-da-vinci/all-works#!#filterName:all-paintings-chronologically.resultType:masonry>

The painting inside the text is a self portrait he is believed to have made in 1510, you can see it in the *Biblioteca Reale* in Torino

https://museireali.beniculturali.it/le-collezioni-disegni-e-arti-grafiche/#/dettaglio/472193_Autori tratto

The first painting is called "Mona Lisa" (1503-1509) and you can see it in the *Louvre Museum* in Paris

<https://www.louvre.fr/en/explore/life-at-the-museum/mona-lisa-an-immersive-exhibition>

The second painting is called "The Last Supper" (1495) and you can see it in the church *Santa Maria delle Grazie* in Milan

<https://cenacolorvinciano.org/en/>

The third painting is called "The virgin of the rocks" (1483-1505) and you can see it in the *National Gallery* in London

<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/leonardo-da-vinci-the-virgin-of-the-rocks>



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For any questions you may have you can message me at info@ruthlessteacher.com

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