



Leonardo Da Vinci – Artist, Designer, Inventor

1. Overview

- A. Leonardo was born as the son of a businessman in 1452, which was nearly 600 years ago. But his mother was not married to his father and he was raised by his grandparents and his father. His father was unable to give him land or to help his circumstances directly. But when he was about 14, his father could see what talent he had as a wonderful draftsman. And so, he sent him to Florence to be apprenticed to a famous artist there, where he worked with other apprentices. Very soon they could all see that Leonardo was talented – so talented that he actually did things that were more impressive than his teacher.

Today, we call Leonardo Da Vinci a “Renaissance Man”. This is not because he came from that time, but because he did many things so well that we can consider him not just an artist, but an inventor, scientist, architect, engineer, and designer. In his drawings and writings, we can see that he anticipated many of the machines and designs we use centuries later.

While working in Florence, he was introduced to a number of artists, craftsmen and influential people who appreciated his work and initiative. He was also given the opportunity to work with people who funded his artistic and scientific efforts. He worked for people with money who we call patrons who paid Leonardo a salary or commission for his works.

One of his most famous anatomical drawings is entitled Vitruvian Man, and is one of the first known explanations of its kind to depict human anatomy.

Leonardo’s most famous painting is the *Mona Lisa*, found in the Louvre Museum in Paris. He also painted *The Last Supper* for the Duke of Milan (one of Leonardo’s patrons) for the Dominican monastery of Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan.

- B. Grade Level: Grade 1st -5TH Grades.

C. Vocabulary

- i. Vinci
- ii. Renaissance period (13th – 16th centuries in Europe)
- iii. Louvre Museum in Paris, France
- iv. Florence, Italy
- v. Milan, Italy
- vi. Realist
- vii. Patron
- viii. Commission

D. Art Media for this Lesson

- i. Watercolor Paint
- ii. Crayons
- iii. White computer paper
- iv. Watercolor paper
- v. Watercolor paintbrush
- vi. Chalk Pastels
- vii. Pencil
- viii. Watercolors
- ix. Cup
- x. Water
- xi. Downloadable template on our website

2. Fun Facts

Regarding his art, in Leonardo's day they had to make their own materials. Art media types that we take for granted – like pastels, chalk pastels, crayons, watercolors, and markers – had not been invented yet. Also, many of the materials of the age were made organically from components that were much harder to refine and use. Still, Leonardo Da Vinci was able to make wonderful art by being both diligent and resourceful. And of course, brilliant!

Leonardo actually designed a bridge in Constantinople, which is now called Istanbul, Turkey.

In last position in service to a nobleman he was Premier Painter and Engineer and Architect of the King, appointed by King Francis I in France. His last and perhaps most generous patron, Francis I provided Leonardo with a stipend and manor house near the royal chateau at Amboise.

3. Lesson Plan

A. Elements of Art

- i. Line
- ii. Shape
- iii. Form

- iv. Value
- v. Space
- vi. Color
- vii. Texture

B. Principles of Art

- i. Balance
- ii. Emphasis (contrast)
- iii. Movement
- iv. Proportion
- v. Gradation
- vi. Harmony

C. Visualization

- i. How did your pictures differ when you painted them with watercolors or used chalk pastels or crayons
- ii. How were each of your pictures similar when you colored with crayons or chalk or painted them with watercolors?

4. Goals and Objectives

- A. Students will understand the process of painting with watercolors and a paintbrush.
- B. Students will observe how textures and values change depending upon which medium they use.
- C. Students are reminded that the chalk should be carefully brushed off or tapped off the surfaces – NEVER blown into the air where it might be inhaled.

5. Students Critique Questions

- A. What do you like about the pictures you have created?
- B. What do you like about your classmate's pictures?
- C. What would you do differently next time you create a drawing or painting from a famous artist's template?

6. To meet standards, students should be encouraged to watch the following videos.

- A. Leonardo da Vinci for Kids | Learn all about one of the most famous artists of all time
 - i. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mxEhLZ8tW3E>
- B. The Mona Lisa Story for Kids
 - i. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WQvxUyaruPU>

(See compliance standards by grade on the following page)

COMPLIANCE WITH EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS (PER GRADE)

1st Grade

VA.1.CR1.1 #1., #2., & #3., VA.2.CR2.1 #1., VA.3.CR3.1 #1., & #2., VA.8.RE2.1 #1., VA.9.RE3.1 #1., VA.10.CO1.1 #1. & #2., VA.11.CO2.1 #1. & #2., VA:Cr1.1.1a, VA:Cr1.2.1a, VA:Cr2.1.1a, VA:Cr3.1.1a, VA:Pr4.1.1a, VA:Re.7.1.1a, VA:Re.7.2.1a, VA:Re8.1.1a, VA:Re9.1.1a, VA:Cn11.1.1a

2nd Grade

VA.:1.CR1.2 #1., #2., & #3., VA.2.CR2.2 #1., VA.3.CR3.2 #1., #2., & #3., VA.8.RE2.2 #1., VA.9.RE3.2 #1., VA.10.CO1.2 #2., VA.11.CO2.2 #1. & #2., VA:Cr1.1.2a, VA:Cr1.2.2a, VA:Cr2.1.2a, VA:Cr3.1.2a, VA:Pr6.1.2a, VA:Re.7.2.2a, VA:Re8.1.2a, VA:Re9.1.2a, VA:Cn11.1.2a

3rd Grade

VA.1.CR1.3 #1., #2., & #3., VA.22.CR2.3 #1., VA.3.CR3.3 #1., #2., & #3., VA.5.PR2.3 #1. & #2., VA.6.PR3.3 #2., VA.8.RE2.3 #1. & #2., VA.9.RE3.3 #1. & #2., VA.11.CO2.3 #1. & #2., VA:Cr1.1.3a, VACr1.2.3a, VA:Cr2.1.3a, VA:Cr3.1.3a, VA:Pr6.1.3a, VA:Re7.1.3a, VA:Re8.1.3a, VARe9.1.3a, VA:Cn11.1.3a

4th Grade

VA.1.CR1.4 #1., #2., & #3., VA.2.CR2.4 #1., VA.3.CR3.4 #1., #2., & #3., VA.5.PR2.4 #1. & #2., VA.7.RE1.4 #2., & #3., VA.8.RE2.4 #1., VA.9.RE3.4 #1. & #2., VA.11.CO2.4 #1. & #2., VA:Cr1.1.4a, VA:Cr1.2.4a, VA:Cr2.1.4a, VA:Cr3.1.4a, VA:Re.7.1.4a, VA:Re.7.2.4a, VA:Re8.1.4a, VA:Re9.1.4a, VA:Cn11.1.4a

5th Grade

VA.1.CR1.5. #2., & #3., VA.2.CR2.5 #1., #3., & #4., VA.3.CR3.5 #1., #2., & #3., VA.5.PR2.5 #2. & #3., VA.7.RE1.5 #1., #2., & #3., VA.8.RE2.5 #1., VA.9.RE3.5 #1. & #2., VA:Cr1.1.5a, VA:Cr1.2.5a, VA:Cr2.1.5a, VA:Re.7.1.5a, VA:Re8.1.5a, VA:Re9.1.5a, VA:Cn10.1.5a