

Leonardo Da Vinci  
Art in The Classroom Presentation



## **SLIDE 1**

Leonardo Da Vinci was born in a small town in Italy called Vinci in 1452. (Does anyone know where Italy is? Map/Globe)

When Leonardo was a little boy, he loved to draw pictures of the things he saw around him, like plants, bugs, animals, people. As we will see, Leonardo studied the things he drew very carefully so they would look as real as possible.

This period of time was called the Renaissance which means 'rebirth' and people were becoming very interested once again in art and filling their homes and churches and cities with beautiful statues and paintings.



## **SLIDE 2**

Here's a picture Leonardo drew of a pair of hands. He did a lot of experimenting and learned how to use light and shadows to create realistic 3-D drawings of the human body.

What does 3-D mean?

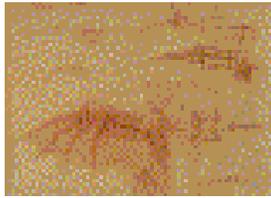
How would the hands look if they were one-dimensional? (If you traced an outline of your hand on paper.)



### **SLIDE 3**

Da Vinci was also a scientist and he was very curious about the human body. Before doctors had x-ray machines, Da Vinci's realistic anatomical drawings helped doctors picture the inner workings of the human body.

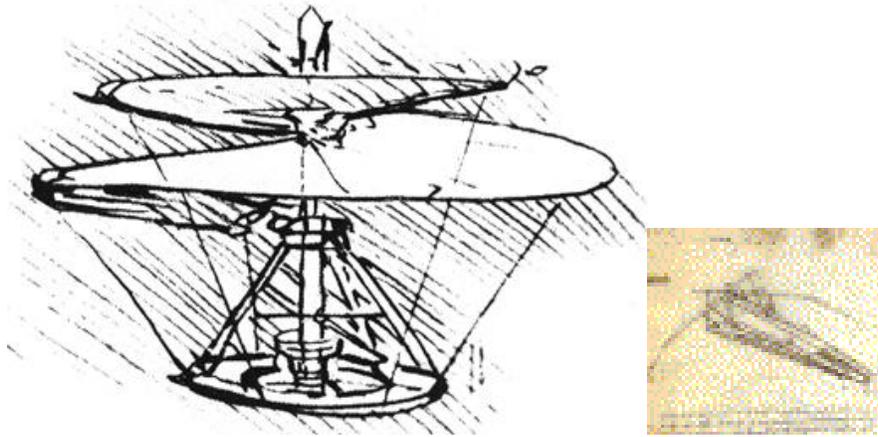
(FYI if anyone asks: Da Vinci would cut open corpses to see what they looked like inside.)



## **SLIDE 4**

Leonardo Da Vinci was also a brilliant inventor. He was not only interested in learning and drawing how the body worked, but how everything worked.

What do you think Da Vinci was trying to learn about in this drawing? (How birds used their wings to fly.)

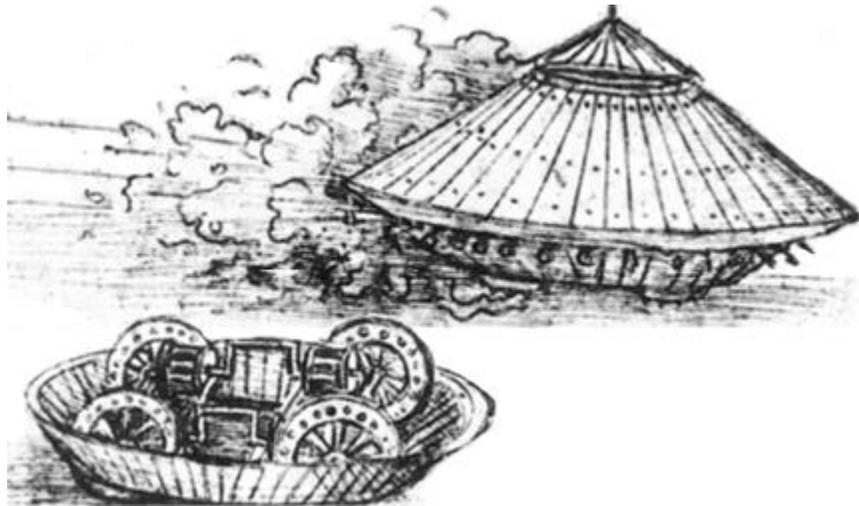


## **SLIDE 5**

Here are two other drawings of his ideas for a “flying machine”.

What do these sketches look like to you?

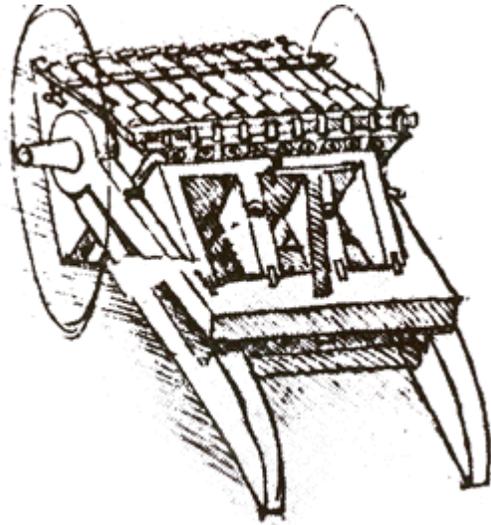
FYI: his flying machines never really worked.



## SLIDE 6

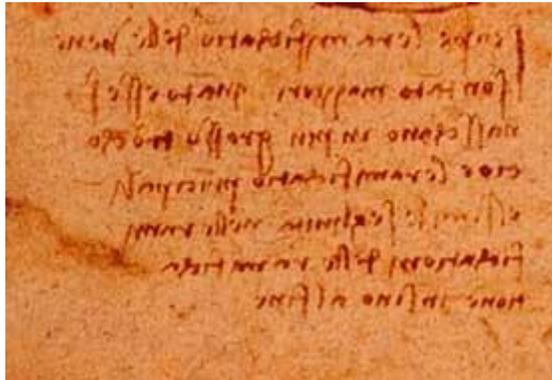
Da Vinci became so famous for his inventions, he was asked to design machines to help out in wars. Can you tell what this war machine invention is?  
(Tank)

Da Vinci



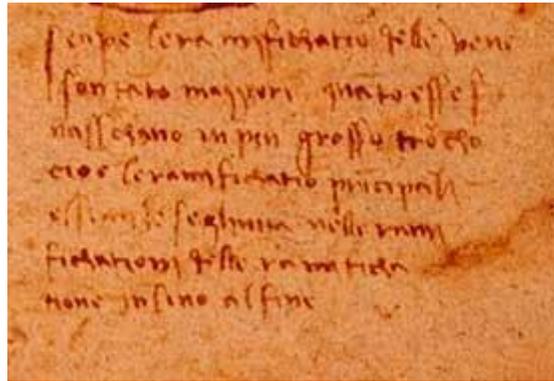
**SLIDE 7**

Can you guess what this war machine invention is?  
(machine gun)



## **SLIDE 8**

Have you and a friend ever made up a secret code? Well, Da Vinci was very secretive about his ideas and inventions and would write down his thoughts in a special way called “mirror-writing”. He would write the letters backward, and from right to left, so no one could steal his ideas.



## **SLIDE 9**

You would only be able to read Da Vinci's notes if you held them up to a mirror, like this.



## **SLIDE 10**

When Da Vinci was 17 years old, he was sent to apprentice with a famous painter named Andrea del Verrocchio. (Apprentice: to learn and work with an expert, like a student teacher works in a class with an experienced teacher, when they are just learning to be a teacher.)

This is a painting called the “Baptism of Christ” that Verrocchio and Da Vinci did together. Keeping in mind that Da Vinci was one of the first and most famous artists to paint truly realistic-looking people, which people in this painting do you think Da Vinci painted?



**SLIDE 11**

Verrocchio was good, but many people thought Da Vinci's angels were the best part of this painting because of how natural and realistic they looked.



## **SLIDE 12**

This is Da Vinci's most famous painting. (Does anyone know what it is called?)

The Mona Lisa, also called La Gioconda, is a portrait of a rich silk merchant's wife. Can anyone guess how old she was in this portrait? (16 years old.)

The painting is tempura and oil paints on wood.

What do you think of this picture?

How does it make you feel?

What do you think Mona Lisa is feeling?

How do you think Da Vinci felt about Mona Lisa?

Why?

Most people are drawn to this painting because of its mysterious quality.

Raise your hand if you know whom in this room Mona Lisa is looking at. (Call on one child and ask them to get up and walk across the room. Ask if Mona Lisa is still looking at them.)

What makes it mysterious?

(Her eyes follow you everywhere.

Her mysterious smile, like she knows something you don't.)

What else can you tell me about her smile? Is it a happy smile? A forced smile?

(Like paintings of George Washington, she may not have wanted to smile and show her teeth because they were yellow or missing.)

Let's review the Elements of Art and then talk about the elements that Da Vinci used to create mystery in this painting.

Review Elements of Art – show “Elements of Art” board.

Color:

Are the colors in the painting warm or cool? (cool – black, brown, green)

Are the colors crisp or muted? (muted)

Are the background colors different?

Why do you think? (more mystery, to keep the focus on Mona Lisa, Da Vinci discovered that using blues and green and grays helped backgrounds look more distant or far away)

### Light:

Is the picture light or dark? (dark)

Where does the light come from? (seems to come from within Mona Lisa - mysterious)

Where does this draw your attention? (to her face)

### Shape:

What shapes do you see in the picture? (circle-face, triangle-mountains)

Shapes can cause your eyes to focus on a certain object or area in a painting.

What is the main shape in the picture? (circle)

Line:

Are the lines clean and crisp or blended? (blended)

Da Vinci used a technique called **sfumato**, in which he blended the outlines or edges that made things look fuzzy, hazy or smoky and more three dimensional. And, in the Mona Lisa, more mysterious.

Where do you see this technique, sfumato, used in the Mona Lisa? (background, smile, eyes, etc.)

Texture:

Where do you see texture in this picture? (the falling of her hair, the folds of her dress, the muted background)

What do all these textures have in common?  
(softness)

Space:

A shape that fills the space of most of the painting gives the feeling of bold, large or forward.

In this painting, what takes up the most space? Why do you think Da Vinci used space this way? (She is the focus of the painting.)

How close is Mona Lisa to the landscape in the background? (far away)

Why do think it's far away? (so much smaller than Mona Lisa)

This is another technique artists use to create the impression of depth, perspective or distance.

## Conclusion:

Leonardo Da Vinci was a true Renaissance Man. Renaissance means 'rebirth', and Da Vinci was not afraid to experiment and try out new ways of thinking about and doing many different things. Not only was he one of the greatest painters of all times, he was also a brilliant inventor, scientist and sculptor. So be like Da Vinci - go out and try something new today!

## Da Vinci

Today we learned about Leonardo Da Vinci in Art in The Classroom. Da Vinci was not only one of the greatest painters of all time, he was also a brilliant sculptor, scientist and inventor.

See if you can remember how Da Vinci used the "Elements of Art" (line, shape, color, light, texture and space) when coloring in your own Mona Lisa.



©EnchantedLearning.com

## **Leonardo Da Vinci Second Grade Presentation:**

What do I need to bring to class?

1. Presentation folder
2. CD for slide show
3. Elements of Art Board
4. Enough copies for each child to take home a copy of the *Mona Lisa coloring page*.

Good luck and have fun!!