

Name: _____

Date: _____

Leonardo da Vinci

Leonardo da Vinci was an artist, architect, musician, engineer, scientist, mathematician and inventor.



He was born in 1452 and died in 1519.

Leonardo produced many studies of the flight of birds and drew plans for flying machines.

He wrote most of his notes using mirror writing.

The Mona Lisa is Leonardo's most famous painting.

Leonardo sketched the first parachute, first helicopter, first airplanes, and first tank.

Do you know any more facts about Leonardo da Vinci?

Great inventions

Leonardo was considered to be far in advance of his time.

Leonard invented the scissors. He also drew the bicycle 300 years before it appeared on the road.



If Leonardo were alive today, what do you think he might invent?

What sort of things do you think need inventing? Draw some of these inventions.

Mirror writing

Leonardo used mirror writing in his notes.

This is where you start at the right side of the page and move to the left. You hold the writing up to a mirror to read it. Experiment with mirror writing. How hard is it to write and read?

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Art writing

Look carefully at Leonardo's famous painting, The Mona Lisa.

The painting shows a woman gazing at the viewer with a mysterious half smile.



Some say that if you move around the room whilst looking into her eyes, the eyes will follow you.

For hundreds of years, people have written about this famous painting.

In a short report, write your own response to this portrait and answer these questions.

What is she thinking?

Why does she smile?

Proportion

The Vitruvian Man is a world-renowned drawing by Leonardo da Vinci.



This drawing represents Leonardo's attempts to relate man to nature and was a study of the proportions of the (male) human body.

Here are a few of his measurements (proportions):

- the length of a man's outspread arms (arm span) is equal to his height.
- the distance from the top of the head to the bottom of the chin is one-eighth of a man's height.
- the maximum width of the shoulders is a quarter of a man's height.
- the distance from the elbow to the tip of the hand is a quarter of a man's height.

Take measurements of several people.

Were they similar to the Vitruvian Man?