

**Topics: The great Italian artist and scientist Leonardo da Vinci.**

### **The History of a Portrait (Home reading)**

**Equipment:** text “The History of a Portrait”, multimedia presentation of the lesson.

Leonardo da Vinci was an Italian painter, sculptor, architect, engineer, and scientist. He was one of the greatest minds of the Italian Renaissance, and his influence on painting was enormous to the following generations.

Leonardo da Vinci was born on April 15, 1452, near the village of Vinci. He was the illegitimate (born to unmarried parents) son of Sir Pier da Vinci and a local woman, Catherina. Not much is known about Leonardo's childhood except that when he was fifteen, his father apprenticed him to Andrea del Verrocchio (1435–1488), the leading artist of Florence and the early Renaissance.

About 1478 Leonardo set up his own studio. In 1481 he received a major church commission for an altarpiece, the Adoration of the Magi. In this unfinished painting, Leonardo's new approach is far more developed. A crowd of spectators, with varied faces, looks at the main group of the Virgin and Child.

The Magi altarpiece was left unfinished because Leonardo left Florence in 1482 to accept the post of court artist to the Duke of Milan. In leaving, Leonardo followed a trend set by masters of the older generation who went to Venice and Rome to execute commissions larger than any available in their native Florence. Leonardo presented himself to the Duke of Milan as skilled in many crafts, but particularly in military engineering. He also produced remarkable machinery for stage set-ups. Both activities point to his intense interest in the laws of motion and propulsion (the movement or push forward), a further aspect of his interest in things and their workings.

Leonardo's first Milanese painting is the altarpiece Virgin of the Rocks. It makes use of a respected tradition in which the Holy Family is shown in a cave.

In 1499 Leonardo left Milan. He visited Venice and traveled to Mantua. In 1500 Leonardo returned to Florence, where he was received as a great man.

Leonardo even served a term as military engineer for Cesar Borgia in 1502, and he completed more projects during his time in Florence than in any other period of his life. In his works of these years, the concentration is mostly on portraying human vitality, as in the Mona Lisa.

Leonardo filled notebooks with data and drawings that reveal his other scientific interests: firearms, the action of water, the flight of birds (leading to designs for human flight), the growth of plants, and geology (the study of earth and its history). Leonardo's interests were not universal, however. Theology (the study of religion), history, and literature did not appeal to him. All his interests were concerned with the processes of action, movement, pressure, and growth. It has been said that his drawings of the human body are less about how bodies are and more about how they work. In 1513 Leonardo went to Rome, where he remained until 1516.

The French king, Francis I (1494–1547), invited Leonardo to his court at Fontainebleau, gave him the title of first painter, architect, and mechanic to the king, and

provided him with a country house at Cloux. Leonardo was revered for his knowledge more than for any work he produced in France. He died on May 2, 1519, at Cloux.

One of the most famous paintings – Mona Lisa Gioconda.

Leonardo da Vinci has painted many women's portraits. But millions of people all over the world have been admiring Gioconda for 5 centuries already .

### **The History of a Portrait**

Leonardo da Vinci was a great Italian artist and talented scientist. He lived and created his masterpieces in the period of the Renaissance. He left us several beautiful paintings as well as famous notebook with numerous drawings and technical ideas. His works in the fields of optics, mechanics and mathematics were truly remarkable and are of great interest to us even now. Leonardo da Vinci was one of the giants of creation not only in the history of art, but also in the history of science. One of his best known pictures is the portrait of Gioconda. The history of this portrait is of great interest.

In year 1504, Mona Lisa Gioconda, one of the loveliest and influential women in Florence once happened to see a miniature painted by Leonardo da Vinci. Mona Lisa was struck by the beauty of the painting. So she decided to have a portrait of herself painted by Leonardo.

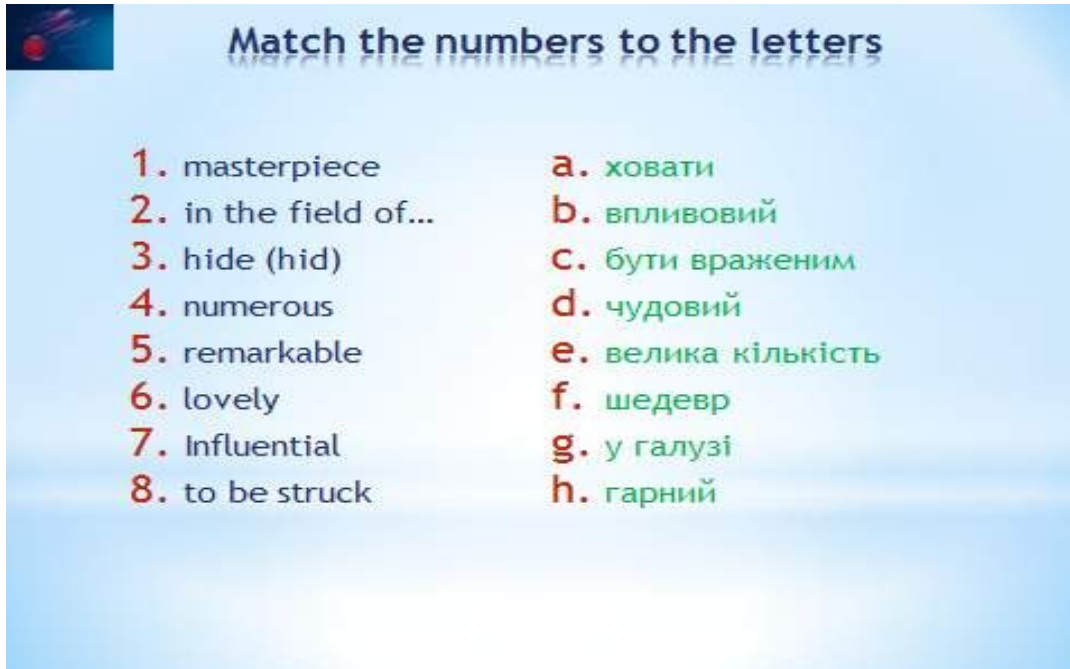
As a result, a few weeks later Leonardo began his famous portrait of the smiling Mona Lisa. It took him three years to paint this great masterpiece of art. Leonardo da Vinci was an Italian, but his famous masterpiece is not in possession of the Italian people. This is what happened to it.

Almost three hundred years after it was finished, in 1796, Napoleon's army occupied Milan. Besides reparations Napoleon demanded many valuable works of art. Among them was Leonardo's Mona Lisa. Napoleon took the picture to France. For over a hundred years it was kept in the Louvre museum, in Paris. We find it there in 1911. Many people from various countries stand for hours before Leonardo's masterpiece. The colours on Gioconda's face are so fresh and her smile so lovely. The impression is that the artist has just finished the portrait.

In that year one Italian workman, Peruggio, was working as a decorator in the Louvre. He was also struck by the beauty of the portrait and often came to look at it. One day he heard a professor say: "It was Napoleon who brought this picture to France as a military trophy from Italy." Peruggio was struck by this idea and decided to take the picture and return it to his motherland. At dinner - time he cut the picture out from its frame, rolled it up and hid it under his overalls. In this way he carried it out of the museum. When he got home he hid it behind a cupboard where it lay in the dust for almost two years. It was only 1913 that he brought the painting to Italy. But the French Government would not agree to hand the picture over to its rightful owner, the Italian people. There followed a diplomatic conflict and as a result the painting was returned to Paris. It is now again in the Louvre, where two watchmen guard it day and night.

## Vocabulary revision

1. (slide )



**Match the numbers to the letters**

1. masterpiece	a. ховати
2. in the field of...	b. впливовий
3. hide (hid)	c. бути враженням
4. numerous	d. чудовий
5. remarkable	e. велика кількість
6. lovely	f. шедевр
7. Influential	g. у галузі
8. to be struck	h. гарний

(slide )



**Match the numbers to the letters**

1. possession	a. рамка
2. reparation	b. справжній
3. demand	c. власність
4. frame	d. комбінезон
5. overall	e. відшкодування
6. to hand	f. охоронець
7. watchman	g. вимагати
8. rightful	h. передавати

2. (slide )



## Find the synonyms in the text for:

During  
Great deal  
Really  
Striking  
Image  
Charming  
Bonny  
Resolve  
Some  
To own  
Compensation  
To claim

3. (slide )



## Give the English equivalents from the text to:

- Творити в епоху Ренесансу;
- зошит з малюнками;
- у галузі оптики;
- найвідоміша картина;
- мати її власний портрет;
- він витратив три роки;
- стояти годинами перед шедевром;
- працювати малярем;
- військовий трофей;
- законний володар.

## Exchanging the ideas

Choose the correct answer: (slide )

1. Leonardo da Vinci was a great...artist
  - a) Spanish
  - b) Italian
  - c) French
2. He lived in the period of
  - a) Renaissance
  - b) Classicism
  - c) Realism
3. He worked in the fields of
  - a) acoustics
  - b) chemistry
  - c) optics
4. Mona Lisa decided to have a portrait
  - a) of her son
  - b) of herself
  - c) of her husband
5. It took him ... years to paint a portrait
  - a) three
  - b) two
  - c) five
6. Napoleon's army occupied Milan in
  - a) 1877
  - b) 1800
  - c) 1796
7. It has kept in the Louvre museum for over
  - a) two hundred years
  - b) fifty years
  - c) hundred years
8. Peruggio was working in the Louvre
  - a) as a decorator
  - b) as a painter
  - c) as a watchman
9. Peruggio wanted
  - a) to have the picture in his own
  - b) to return it to his motherland
  - c) to annihilate the picture
10. Peruggio hid the picture
  - a) under the table
  - b) among the other pictures
  - c) behind a cupboard
11. He brought the picture to Italy
  - a) in 1913
  - b) in 1910
  - c) in 1915
12. How many watchmen guard it now?

- a) two
- b) one
- c) three

**Find the answers in the text:**

- Which is the heritage of Leonardo da Vinci?
- Why did Mona Lisa want Leonardo to paint her portrait?
- When and why a portrait was exported to France?
- Which way did Peruggio find out the history of this portrait?
- How did Peruggio steal the picture?
- Why the picture Mona Lisa Gioconda is in France now?
- Why did Peruggio decide to return the picture to his motherland?