

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

## Leonardo da Vinci

### Before reading

#### 1 Guess

Look at the picture of Leonardo at the beginning of the story. Write five adjectives that describe him. The adjectives can describe his appearance or his character.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### While reading

#### 2 Comprehension

Read to the section break on page 13. Why were these people important in Leonardo's life?

1 Caterina

\_\_\_\_\_

2 Andrea del Verrochio

\_\_\_\_\_

3 Lorenzo de' Medici

\_\_\_\_\_

#### 3 Comprehension

Read to the section break on page 15. Put these events in the correct order. Write 1–6 in the spaces.

\_\_\_\_\_ Leonardo decided to leave Florence and return to Milan.

\_\_\_\_\_ He made detailed anatomical drawings.

\_\_\_\_\_ Leonardo left Venice and went to his home city, Florence.

\_\_\_\_\_ Leonardo left Milan and went to live in Venice.

\_\_\_\_\_ Leonardo designed weapons and military buildings.

\_\_\_\_\_ He painted in a monks' workshop.

#### 4 Comprehension and writing

Read to the end of the story. Answer these questions in sentences.

1 Why did Leonardo go to Rome?

\_\_\_\_\_

2 What important scientific work did he do in Rome?

\_\_\_\_\_

3 Why was King Francis the First important in Leonardo's life?

\_\_\_\_\_

4 Why were Leonardo's notes difficult to read?

\_\_\_\_\_

5 What happened in 1651?

\_\_\_\_\_

### After reading

#### 5 Language

Find the 11 words from the box in the wordsearch.

ceramic	instrument	patron	studio
destroy	invade	portrait	version
dream	monk	proportion	

P	R	O	P	O	R	T	I	O	N
I	N	V	A	D	E	A	N	W	D
D	V	E	T	H	X	U	S	Z	R
E	Y	R	R	E	T	R	T	A	E
S	S	S	O	W	Q	U	R	E	A
T	T	I	N	I	K	L	U	M	M
R	U	O	C	E	R	A	M	I	C
O	D	N	M	O	N	K	E	P	S
Y	I	E	G	P	O	M	N	D	I
P	O	R	T	R	A	I	T	U	L

#### 6 Follow-up activity

Write your own sentences using each word from the wordsearch so that the word's meaning is clear. Your sentences can be about the story but you mustn't copy sentences from the story.

#### 7 Playing detective

In his introduction, Leonardo says, '*Some of the things I dreamed about only happened after my death.*'

- 1 What things is he talking about? Find examples from the story and the timeline and make a list.
- 2 Search online. Are there other things which Leonardo dreamed about? (You can use the websites listed in the 'Further research' document.)

#### 8 Research

Find out more about these famous works by Leonardo and write a short paragraph about them:

- *The Last Supper*
- *The Mona Lisa*
- *The Vitruvian Man*
- *The Lady with an Ermine*

You can use the 'Further Research' document to find some useful resources on Leonardo's works.

## ANSWER KEY (STUDENT ACTIVITIES)

*Leonardo da Vinci*

### 1 Guess

Answers will vary. Suggested answers:

- clever
- frightening
- grey-haired
- intelligent
- long-haired
- old
- sad
- serious
- thoughtful
- unhappy

### 2 Comprehension

- 1 Caterina was his mother.
- 2 Leonardo was Andrea del Verrochio's apprentice. Leonardo worked with him for ten years. He learnt painting, drawing, metalwork and other arts from him.
- 3 Leonardo made a harp. Lorenzo de' Medici heard about it and sent him to Milan to give it to his enemy Ludovico Sforza. Leonardo stayed and worked in Milan for 17 years.

### 3 Comprehension

- 1 Leonardo left Milan and went to live in Venice.
- 2 He painted in a monks' workshop.
- 3 Leonardo left Venice and went to his home city, Florence.
- 4 Leonardo designed weapons and military buildings.
- 5 Leonardo decided to leave Florence and return to Milan.
- 6 He made detailed anatomical drawings.

### 4 Comprehension and writing

- 1 Leonardo went to Rome because the pope asked Leonardo to work for him.
- 2 He cut up dead bodies to study them. He believed that this science – pathology – could help living people.
- 3 King Francis the First gave Leonardo a house in France (in Amboise, in the Loire region). They discussed scientific ideas and political problems.
- 4 He wrote his notes in back-to-front writing.
- 5 Leonardo's notes were printed in a book for the first time.

### 5 Language

P	R	O	P	O	R	T	I	O	N
I	N	V	A	D	E	A	N	W	D
D	V	E	T	H	X	U	S	Z	R
E	Y	R	R	E	T	R	T	A	E
S	S	S	O	W	Q	U	R	E	A
T	T	I	N	I	K	L	U	M	M
R	U	O	C	E	R	A	M	I	C
O	D	N	M	O	N	K	E	P	S
Y	I	E	G	P	O	M	N	D	I
P	O	R	T	R	A	I	D	U	L

### 6 Follow-up activity

Answers will vary.

### 7 Playing detective

- 1 Leonardo designed a kind of parachute. He made some sketches of flying machines. He sketched designs for military vehicles and a fighting ship. He sketched the design for a gun and for a bridge across the Golden Horn in Constantinople (Istanbul).
- 2 Answers will vary.

### 8 Research and speaking

Suggested answer.

*The Last Supper* is a mural in a church in Milan. *The Mona Lisa* is a portrait of a woman which Leonardo painted. It took many years for him to paint it. She is called Lisa Gherardini. *The Vitruvian Man* shows the proportions of a human body in a circle and a square. It is a drawing, not a painting. *The Lady with an Ermine* is a portrait of a beautiful woman. She holds a small animal with white fur. Her name is Cecilia Gallerani.