



ELEMENTARY LEVEL

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT LEONARDO DA VINCI?

A) COMPLETE THE MISSING INFORMATION USING THE VERBS IN THE BOX IN THE PRESENT TENSE

study, paint, begin, go, to be born, become, leave, meet, design
draw, return, construct, die

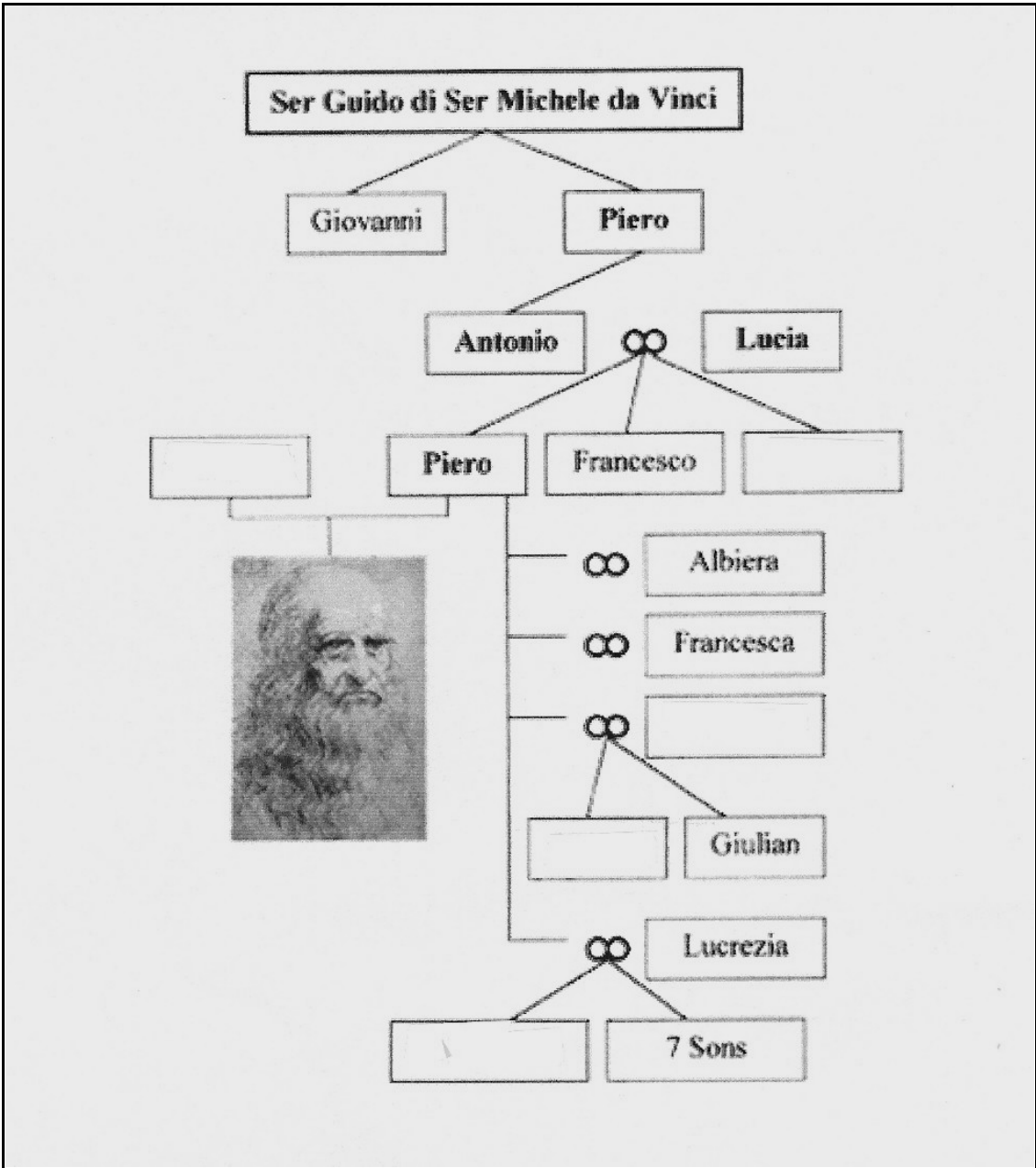
- Leonardo _____ in Vinci, April 15, 1452.
- _____ to Florence, he is an apprentice in the studio of Verrocchio (1469).
- _____ a member of the corporation of painters (1472).
- _____ an angel in Verrocchio's "Baptism of Christ" (1475).
- _____ Florence for Milan, in the service of Ludovico Sforza (1482-3).
- _____ to explore human flight (1486).
- _____ a flying machine (1492).
- _____ mathematician Luca Pacioli, with whom he studies Euclid (1496).
- _____ studies for "The Battle of Anghiari" (1503-6).
- _____ the flight of birds, designs flying machines, and tries to square the circle (1505).
- _____ to Milan (1508).
- _____ a mechanical lion for the incoronation of Francis I, King of France (1515).
- _____ in Amboise, May 2, 1519.



Amboise

B) COMPLETE HIS FAMILY TREE, SOME NAMES ARE MISSING!

Family Tree of Leonardo da Vinci



C) FILL IN THE GAPS WRITING THE CORRECT VERB IN PAST TENSE

Ser Guido di Ser Michele da Vinci _____ the great great-grandfather of Leonardo da Vinci. He _____ in Vinci and first mention of him is dated by 1339. He was a florentine notary. To take up the profession of notary was a family-tradition. His father and also his sons, Giovanni and Piero , _____ up this profession. Piero was the great-grandfather of Leonardo da Vinci.

Antonio and Lucia _____ the grandparents of Leonardo. Lucia was born in 1393. She was the daughter of Piero Zosi da Bacchereto a florentine notary. Antonio _____ continue the family-tradition to take up the profession of notary. He was a farmer and land-owner. Antonio and Lucia _____ with their two sons Piero and Francesco (born in 1435) and their daughter Violante in Vinci. Leonardo and his father lived in the same house until they _____ to Florence. Francesco and Lucia spent their whole life in this house in Vinci.

Leonardo da Vinci was the first child of Ser Piero who was born in 1427. He _____ the tradition of his family to work as a notary. Ser Piero _____ marry the mother of Leonardo. He _____ his first wife Albiera in the same year as Leonardo was born. He died on 9th of July 1504.

Catarina was the mother of Leonardo. She did not marry Ser Piero the father of Leonardo. It is supposed that Leonardo _____ his first years of childhood with Catarina in Anchiano. Catarina _____ some years after the birth of Leonardo a man from Vinci _____ Acattabriga di Piero di Luca.

Albiera di Giovanni Amadai was _____ in 1436 and died between 1460 and 1465. At the age of sixteen she married Ser Piero. This _____ in the same year as Leonardo was born. Ser Piero and Albiera didn't get any child.

Francesca di Ser Giovanni Lanfredini _____ the second very young wife of Ser Piero. Unfortunately she _____ early.

Margherita daughter of Francesco di Gacopo di Guglielmo was the third very young wife of Ser Piero. She was born in 1458. Ser Piero and Margherita _____ two sons. Antonio was born in 1476 and he was the first legitimated son of Ser Piero. The second son was Giulian who was _____ in 1479. Margherita _____ soon after 1480.

Lucrezia di Guglielmo Cortigiani _____ the fourth wife of Ser Piero. This marriage was blessed with a large offspring. Ser Piero and Lucrezia _____ seven sons and two daughters.

D) ARE THESE SENTENCES TRUE OR FALSE?

- Catarina was the mother of Leonardo.
- Margherita was the second very young wife of Ser Piero.
- Leonardo da Vinci was the second child of Ser Piero.
- Ser Guido was the great grandfather of Leonardo da Vinci.
- Antonio continues the family tradition to take up the profession of notary.

E) ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

- Where is Vinci?

- Did Ser Piero and his first wife have any children?

- What can you see in the second photograph from Childhood in Vinci?

- What did Leonardo learn at school?

- What did Leonardo think about Latin?

- When did he move to Florence?

- What did he do there?

F) CAN YOU MATCH THE BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES WITH THE FOLLOWING YEARS?

1450, 1460, 1470, 1480, 1490, 1500, 1510

- Paints the "Virgin of the Rocks" _____
- Meets mathematician Luca Pacioli, with whom he studies Euclid _____
- Designs a flying machine _____
- Undertakes detailed anatomical research _____
- Goes to the court of Francis I, Amboise _____
- Becomes a member of the corporation of painters _____
- Paints "Mona Lisa" _____

6) DO YOU REMEMBER THE NAME OF THESE PICTURES?













INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

A) WHICH PREPOSITIONS ARE MISSING IN THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE?

This figure _____ a woman, dressed _____ the Florentine fashion _____ her day and seated _____ a visionary, mountainous landscape, is a remarkable instance _____ Leonardo's sfumato technique _____ soft, heavily shaded modeling. The Mona Lisa's enigmatic expression, which seems both alluring and aloof, has given the portrait universal fame.

B) USE THE PASSIVE STRUCTURE TO COMPLETE THESE SENTENCES FROM THE JOCONDE'S WEBSITE.

- Reams have (WRITE) about this small masterpiece by Leonardo.
- The history of the panel has (DISCUSS).
- and thus came to (KNOW) as ``La Gioconda''.
- The work should probably..... (DATE) during Leonardo's second Florentine period.
- It was (SELL) to François I.
- From the beginning it was greatly (ADMIRE) and much (COPY).

C) ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ABOUT "MONA LISA"

- What kinds of techniques does Leonardo use in his portrait of "Mona Lisa"?

- What was considered in that period a sign of elegance?

- Which is the main subject of La Joconde?

- What is amazing in this portrait?

- What is Leonardo's famous invention?

- Which parts has Leonardo left deliberately indistinct?

D) GIVE A SYNONYM OR SHORT EXPLANATION OF THE UNDERLINED WORDS

The great works of the Italian Quattrocento masters who followed the lead given by Masaccio have one thing in common: their figures look somewhat hard and harsh, almost wooden. The strange thing is that it clearly is not lack of patience or lack of knowledge that is responsible for this effect. No one could be more patient in his imitation of nature than Van Eyck; no one could know more about correct drawing and perspective than Mantegna.

E) CHOOSE THE RIGHT OPTION

1. If we now return to the Mona Lisa, we may understand something of its _____ effect.
a. good b. poor c. blurred d. mysterious
2. The painter must leave the _____ something to guess.
a. seer b. view c. student d. beholder
3. The horizon on the left side seems to lie much _____ than the one on the right.
a. higher b. louder c. lower d. smaller
4. He knew the spell which would infuse life into the colours spread by his magic _____
a. ball b. fountain pen c. propelling pencil d. brush
5. There is much more _____ it. Leonardo has done a very daring thing, _____ perhaps only a painter of his consummate mastery could risk.
a. on/that b. in/that c. by/that d. behind/which
6. Now the great scientist, Leonardo, had made some of the dreams and fears of these first image-makers come _____
a. live b. alive c. on life d. true
7. Their figures look more like statues than living _____
a. persons b. people c. thing d. beings
8. We become so used to seeing it on picture postcards that, we find it difficult to see it with _____ eyes.
a. black b. open c. clear d. fresh
9. Sometimes she _____ to mock at us, and then again we may catch something like sadness in her smile.
a. says b. tells c. looks d. seems
10. That great observer of nature knew more about the way we use our eyes _____ anybody who had ever lived before him.
a. that b. what c. which d. than

F) COMPLETE THESE SENTENCES WRITING THE MOST SUITABLE WORD. YOU MAY CHOOSE AMONG THESE IN THE BOX

Which, copied, according, masterpiece, panel, dated

- Reams have been written about this small by Leonardo.
- The history of the has been much discussed, although it remains uncertain.
- to Vasary, the subject is a young Florentine woman.
- The work should probably be during Leonardo's second Florentine period.
- From the beginning it was greatly admired and much
- It is difficult to discuss such a work briefly because of the complex stylistic motifs are part of it.

G) WRITE A SHORT COMMENT IN YOUR OWN WORDS OF THE FOLLOWING LEONARDO'S WORKS.



Virgin of the Rocks



Self-Portrait



Lily (detail)



The Virgin and Child with St Anne _____



ADVANCED LEVEL

A) MATCH THE WORDS WITH THEIR RIGHT MEANING

- a. remarkable
- b. alluring
- c. aloof
- d. sfumato
- e. uncanny
- f. mock
- g. beholder
- h. scribble
- i. merge

1. To combine or join together, or to cause things to do this.
2. The definition of form in painting without abrupt outline by the blending of one tone into another.
3. A person who becomes aware (of things or events) through the senses.
4. To try to make (someone or something) seem foolish or ridiculous.
5. Not taking part in things, esp. in a way that seems unfriendly.
6. Strange or mysterious; difficult or impossible to explain.
7. To write or draw (something) quickly or carelessly, or to make meaningless marks.
8. Unusual and surprising.
9. Attraction, charm, or excitement.

B) WRITE THE ENGLISH EQUIVALENT OF THESE WORDS FROM QUOTATION WEBSITE.

- Rust (v) =
- Stagnation (n) =
- Sap (v) =
- Powerless (n) =
- Vex (v) =
- Praise (v) =
- Censure (v) =
- Quotation (n) =

C) UNDERLINED THE RIGHT WORD FROM THE OPTIONS. (VITRUVIAN WEBSITE).

The planning of temples depends (**OVER, ABOVE, UPON**) symmetry: and the method of this architects must diligently apprehend. It (**ARISES, STARTS, GROWS**) from proportion (which in Greek is called analogia). Proportion consists (**ON, OF, IN**) taking a fixed module, in each case, (**FROM, COMES, BOTH**) for the parts of a building and for the whole, by which the method of symmetry is put to practice. For without symmetry and proportion no temple can have a **COMMON, NORMAL, REGULAR**) plan; that is, it (**HAVE TO, SHOULD, MUST**) have an exact proportion worked out after the fashion of the members of a finely-shaped (**BEING, HUMAN, PEOPLE**) body.

D) FILL IN THE GAPS WRITING THE MOST SUITABLE WORD. YOU CAN CHOOSE AMONG THESE THAT BELONG TO THE VITRUVIAN'S WEBSITE.

quarter, distinction, nostrils, body, part, brows, neck, crown,

For Nature has so planned the human body that the face from the chin to the top of the forehead and the roots of the hair is **a tenth** _____; also the palm of the hand from the wrist to the top of the middle finger is as much; the head from the chin to the _____, **an eighth part**; from the top of the breast with the bottom of the _____ to the roots of the hair, **a sixth part**; from the middle of the breast to the crown, **a fourth part**; **a third part** of the height of the face is from the bottom of the chin to the bottom of the _____; the nose from the bottom of the nostrils to the line between the _____, as much; from that line to the roots of the hair, the forehead is given as **the third part**. The foot is **a sixth** of the height of the _____; the cubit **a quarter**, the breast also **a** _____. The other limbs also have their own proportionate measurements. And by using these, ancient painters and famous sculptors have attained great and unbounded _____.

E) COMPLETE EACH SPACE IN THE TEXT WITH A WORD FORMED FROM THE WORDS IN CAPITALS.

In like (1)..... the members of temples ought to have (2) of their several parts (3) suitably to the general sum of their whole magnitude. Now the navel is naturally the (4) centre of the body. For if a man lies on his back with hands and feet (5) , and the centre of a circle is placed on his navel, his figure and toes will be (6) by the (7) Also a square will be found described within the figure, in the same way as a round figure is produced. For if we (8) from the sole of the foot to the top of the head, and (9) the measure to the outstretched hands, the breadth will be found (10) to the height, just like sites which are squared by (11)

- 1.FASHIONABLE
- 2.DIMENSIONAL
- 3.ANSWER
- 4.EXACTLY
- 5.SPREAD
- 6.TOUCHING
- 7.CIRCUMFERENTIAL
- 8.MEASUREMENT
- 9.APPLICATION
- 10.EQUALITY
- 11.RULING

F) CLOZE TEST. FILL IN THE GAPS WITH THE RIGHT WORD



Madonna and Child with St Anne and the Young St John

The cartoon of the Madonna and Child with St Anne and the young St John is also referred to as Burlington House cartoon. In 1986, a vandal shot at the cartoon and severely damaged it around the area of Mary's chest. Restorers had an opportunity to examine the cartoon _____ repairing it. They could discover no sign on it that it was used either by Leonardo or any other artist at a later date for transferring the design to another medium. In the Pinacoteca Ambrosiana is a Holy Family attributed to Bernardino Luini. It corresponds precisely to the figural composition of the London cartoon, with the exception that Joseph is added in the background on the _____ .

One of the most _____ and fragile works in the National Gallery, the cartoon now hangs in a specially built recess in the wall of a darkened little room. The drawing covers eight sheets of paper glued together. A reduced light level is necessary to _____ the chalk and charcoal from fading, but the reverential atmosphere it creates seems appropriate. As in the Virgin of the Rocks Leonardo has represented four figures in rapt communion charged with theological significance and _____ human emotion. Shared glances and introspective smiles play across their faces, enigmatic expressions which Leonardo made famous.

The open triangle formed by the figures in the Virgin of the Rocks is here condensed into a pyramid of interlocking forms; the figures increase in scale and the rocky landscape recedes into the distance, leaving only pebbles in the foreground. _____ the gain in monumentality nothing is conclusively resolved. Potentially awkward areas where the bodies touch and overlap were left blurred and smudged. Saint Anne's forearm, prophetically raised to Heaven, is barely sketched in. We begin to see why Leonardo found such great difficulty in bringing projects to completion, for the indeterminacy of the design and the lack of finish are integral to the significance of the work, pictorial mystery evoking _____ mystery: *God made flesh in the womb of a woman herself conceived without sin, the Passion foretold and accepted with melancholy joy.*

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