

Date: _____

Name: _____

MISS CAREY
SOCIALS 8

Great Renaissance Artists ①

Great Renaissance Artists

Michelangelo Buonarroti was one of the great artists of the Renaissance. His fame began almost 500 years ago in Florence, Italy. He, along with Donatello, Leonardo, and Raphael are all well-known artists from the Renaissance era.

Renaissance means "rebirth." It was during the years 1400 to 1650 that Europe experienced a "rebirth" of interest in literature, trade routes, inventions, and new ideas about art. Cities began to expand and prosper. Explorations around the world brought back ideas and riches. Kings and queens ruled great empires. Art and architecture flourished.

Michelangelo, Donatello, Leonardo, and Raphael all lived during this time period. Donatello was one of the greatest sculptors of his time. He carved statues in marble but also cast them in bronze. Raphael was a very gifted painter and architect. He also did many frescoes, or wall paintings. Leonardo da Vinci was a writer, inventor, engineer, scientist and painter. His most famous painting is the Mona Lisa. Michelangelo was one of the greatest sculptors and painters in Europe. He was also an architect of churches, palaces, and fortresses. Michelangelo and Leonardo worked together on a project creating large battle scenes for walls of the city hall in Florence. From Leonardo, Michelangelo learned to show flowing and vibrant movement. Together, with many other Renaissance artists, these four created some of the most famous art in the world.

What did Michelangelo, Donatello, Leonardo, and Raphael all have in common? _____

Using a dictionary, or other resource, match the terms to their descriptions.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. Michelangelo | C. A time in history with a "rebirth" of new ideas. |
| _____ 2. Sculptor | I. To use a mold to form a statue. |
| _____ 3. Architect | P. A person who designs buildings. |
| _____ 4. Inventor | S. An architect of many churches. |
| _____ 5. Italy | B. A painting done on a wet wall. |
| _____ 6. Fresco | E. A person who imagines new ideas. |
| _____ 7. Statue | R. The country where all four artists lived. |
| _____ 8. Cast in Bronze | T. An artist who carves statues. |
| _____ 9. Scholar | L. An educated person. |
| _____ 10. Renaissance | A. A carved object. |

Many churches and cathedrals were built during the Renaissance. Use your matching answers to discover the name of the church Donatello and Michelangelo designed together.



1 2 3 4 2 4 5 1 6 7 1 8 9 8 10 7

Leonardo da Vinci

Leonardo da Vinci was also a Renaissance painter, like Michelangelo. His famous works of art include The Last Supper and The Mona Lisa. Historians think he was born outside the village of Vinci, near Florence, Italy, in 1452. Leonardo was interested in and well-informed about many subjects—painting, sculpture, math, the human body, plant and animal life, and architecture. He was unable to go to school, so he taught himself. He sketched everything he saw and imagined. Today over 4,000 of his sketches and notes still exist. So other people would not be able to read his ideas, Leonardo wrote in “mirror writing”.

Can you decipher this message?

"MIRROR-WRITING"

More than 4,000 of his sketches
and notes still exist. So other
people would not be able to read
his ideas. Leonardo wrote in
“mirror writing”.

Can you write your full name in “mirror writing”? Try it here.

* Leonardo kept notebooks. In these he recorded his scientific observations. Try keeping a notebook for two weeks. Use it to write down any thoughts, observations, or ideas you may have. Sketch pictures of what you see. At the end of two weeks review your notebook. Think about what you have seen and what you have written.

The people of the Renaissance set very high goals for themselves. Leonardo da Vinci was one person who came close to reaching his goals. In your notebook, write some goals that you would like to achieve. Then set about doing what must be done to accomplish them.

The Mona Lisa



Painted By: _____
In the Year: _____

Leonardo da Vinci (April 15, 1452-May 2, 1519) was a great Italian Renaissance painter, sculptor, architect, engineer, inventor, and scientist. The Mona Lisa was painted in 1506. Is now in the Louvre Museum in Paris, France.

Michelangelo

Michelangelo devoted his whole life to the creation of magnificent works of art. He was born in Caprese, Italy, on March 6, 1475, as Michelangelo Buonarroti. On that day, his father saw lucky stars in the sky and believed his son would have heavenly powers. For that reason, he named his son Michelangelo—angelo in Italian means angel.

Michelangelo was sent to school to become a scholar, but he was interested only in sketching and painting. He wanted to become an artist. His father and uncles were outraged. They thought art was an occupation only for peasants. They cruelly tried to change Michelangelo's mind, but that only made him more determined to succeed at art. Finally, when Michelangelo was 13, his father agreed to let him study with Domenico Ghirlandaio, a popular Florence painter.

In Florence, Michelangelo studied the art of the old masters and learned to paint frescoes, paintings done on wet plaster walls. Michelangelo was highly skilled and soon began to scorn others less skilled than he. He became hot-tempered and outspoken.

When Michelangelo was 16, he was sent to study sculpture under the talent of Bertoldo de Giovanni. Within two years, he had met the most outstanding men of the day and learned a great deal. He began to love the size and power of the Greek style of sculpture and became obsessed with trying to create perfect human forms in marble. He studied anatomy, the structure of the human body, and even secretly cut up dead bodies to see how they were put together. Sculpture became his mission in life.

Two years later, Michelangelo traveled to Rome. Here he created his first famous piece of art, the Pieta, a statue of Jesus and Mary. By 1501, he had become famous. He was 26 years old! His next statue was the warrior, David. He was then commissioned to do other work, designing tombs and libraries and painting frescoes.

When Michelangelo was 30, he was asked by Pope Julius II to design his tomb. It was so large, a church had to be constructed around it! The church was St. Peter's Basilica. It took Michelangelo 40 years to construct the tomb and supervise work on the church. In the meantime, Michelangelo was asked to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel within St. Peter's Basilica. Using a scaffold and lying on his back, Michelangelo took four years to finish painting this ceiling.

It is said that when Michelangelo was 60, he could still carve faster than three ordinary sculptors. Michelangelo lived to be 89, working steadily until his death in Rome on February 18, 1564. All his life he lived for his art and fulfilled the prophecy of the stars.



