

Leonardo da Vinci

Leonardo da Vinci was born on April 15, 1452, in Italy. A Golden Age for the arts was beginning—a period in history called The Renaissance. Da Vinci was not just a painter but also a scientist and inventor. He is one of the most important figures in western history for both the arts and science, a true genius. He analyzed and illustrated the science of perspective, the flight of birds, flying machines, machines for war, and irrigation projects to name a few. He did the first ever recorded design for a bicycle. He was fascinated with mathematics.

Vocabulary:

Renaissance, Perspective, Horizon Line

Art Project:

An art project focusing on perspective accompanies this presentation.

Catalyst Questions:

- Artists use different senses to inspire their work. Which sense did Leonardo think was the most important for his work? Where did he get many of the ideas for his creations?
- A persistent discussion among creative individuals is the relationship between an object's *form* and its *function*. Think for a minute about how things are structured – say a seashell. What might we learn from studying the structure of a seashell? How might we apply some of these observations to solving real world problems?
- If you think of science and art as ways to experiment and answer questions, what sort of questions would an artist ask and what sort of experiments would an artist invent to answer these questions?
- How did Leonardo da Vinci use perspective to bring the viewer's eye to the subject of the painting?

Links:

-#1) Leonardo da-vinci.org

<http://www.leonardoda-vinci.org/>

#2) Leonardo at the museum of Science

<http://legacy.mos.org/leonardo/>

#3) Metropolitan Museum of Art Leonardo Da Vinci

http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/leon/hd_leon.htm