

AMAZING ARTISTS

UNIT OVERVIEW

Did you know that besides painting the “Mona Lisa”, Leonardo Da Vinci really loved to party? Did you know that Vincent Van Gogh mutilated his own ear because he didn’t take criticism well? The interesting and intriguing world of Art and some of its most famous artists, comes alive in this highly motivating unit. **Part I - Core Lessons** focuses on five of the most famous artists of all time: Leonardo Da Vinci, Rembrandt, Van Gogh, Picasso, and Jackson Pollock in a structured, information-based section. Each lesson has a detailed biography, related activities and accompanying student notes in **Part II**. **Part III - Optional Lessons** helps to build flexibility into the unit and keep student interest at its peak with possible homework or enrichment activities. This unit is sure to motivate and “wow” students - a must in any middle years art class.

PART I - CORE TEACHING LESSONS

Each core lesson is designed with the following elements: objectives, relevant vocabulary, materials, list of works of art by featured artist, biography of featured artist, and activities based upon the featured artist’s themes.

- Lesson #1 - Introduction - *Famous Signature, Amazing Artists Wordsearch*
- Lesson #2 - Art Vocabulary - *Art Vocabulary Survivor*
- Lesson #3 - Leonardo Da Vinci (Renaissance Period) - *Keeping Things In Perspective*
- Lesson #4 - Rembrandt (Baroque Period) - *I Want To Draw Me!*
- Lesson #5 - Vincent Van Gogh (Impressionism) - *Imagery Activity*
- Lesson #6 - Picasso (Cubism) - *Concert Poster*
- Lesson #7 - Jackson Pollock (Abstract Expressionism Period) - *Abstract Schmaabstract*
- Lesson #8 - Review - *Amazing Artists Crossword*
- Lesson #9 - Exam

PART II - STUDENT NOTES FOR OVERHEAD

Students write down notes from overhead transparencies. These notes provide the information base for the unit and give students material from which to study.

PART III - OPTIONAL LESSONS

This collection of activities is excellent for homework or enrichment.

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|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1) Artist Of The Month | 2) Other Famous Artists Report |
| 3) The Start Of Art - <i>Cave Art</i> | 4) Bibliography Of Og By Thog |
| 5) Renaissance Fresco Painting | 6) Hey Leonardo, How Big Is Your Nose |
| 7) Every Day Objects Collage / Sculpture | 8) Student Prepared Exam |
| 9) Famous Artists Wordsearch | 10) Artist In The Class |
| 11) Internet Sites | |

ART FOR THE UNIT

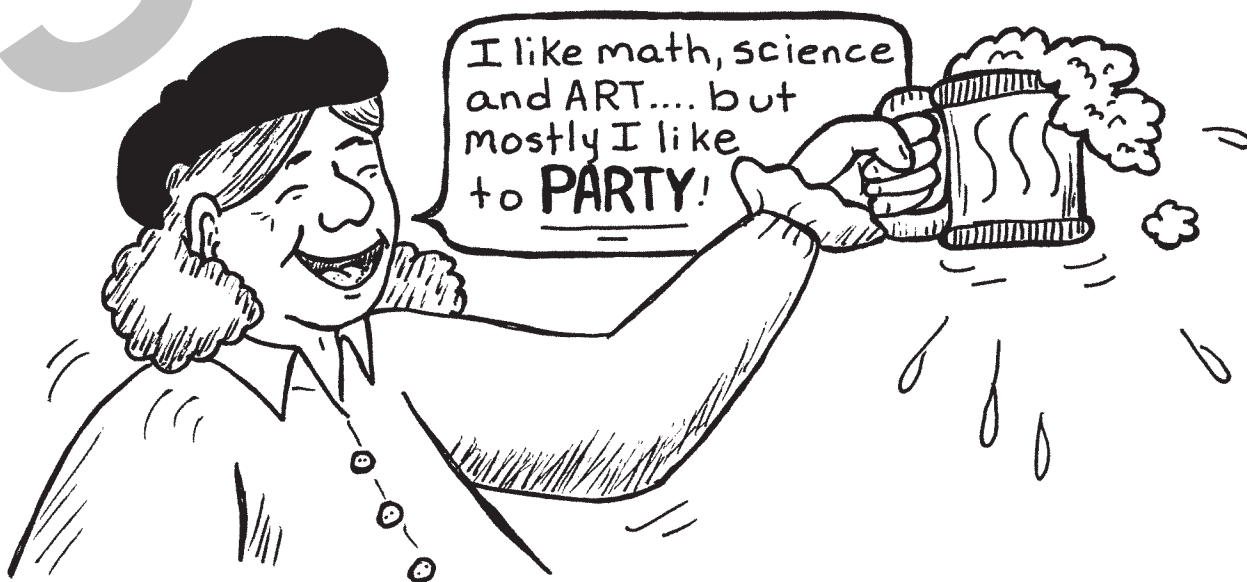
The library is a great resource for locating pictures of the paintings in this unit. Also, the Internet has many great websites. Simply search under the artist’s name to find suitable websites. These websites oftentimes include pictures of paintings as well. Try to expose students to as many different artists, styles, and periods as possible.

LEONARDO DA VINCI (1452-1519)

Leonardo was from Vinci (a small town near Florence, Italy). He was a true Renaissance Man - seeking insight and enlightenment from many different fields of study. Not only was he an artist, but he also made ground-breaking discoveries in many other areas such as medicine, engineering, astronomy, geology, architecture, music, aviation, mapmaking, and even mountain climbing. He was a true genius who excelled in whatever task he undertook - even surpassing the achievements of experts who focussed solely in one field. His life story is about the power of the human spirit to overcome - especially considering his unfortunate circumstances at birth.

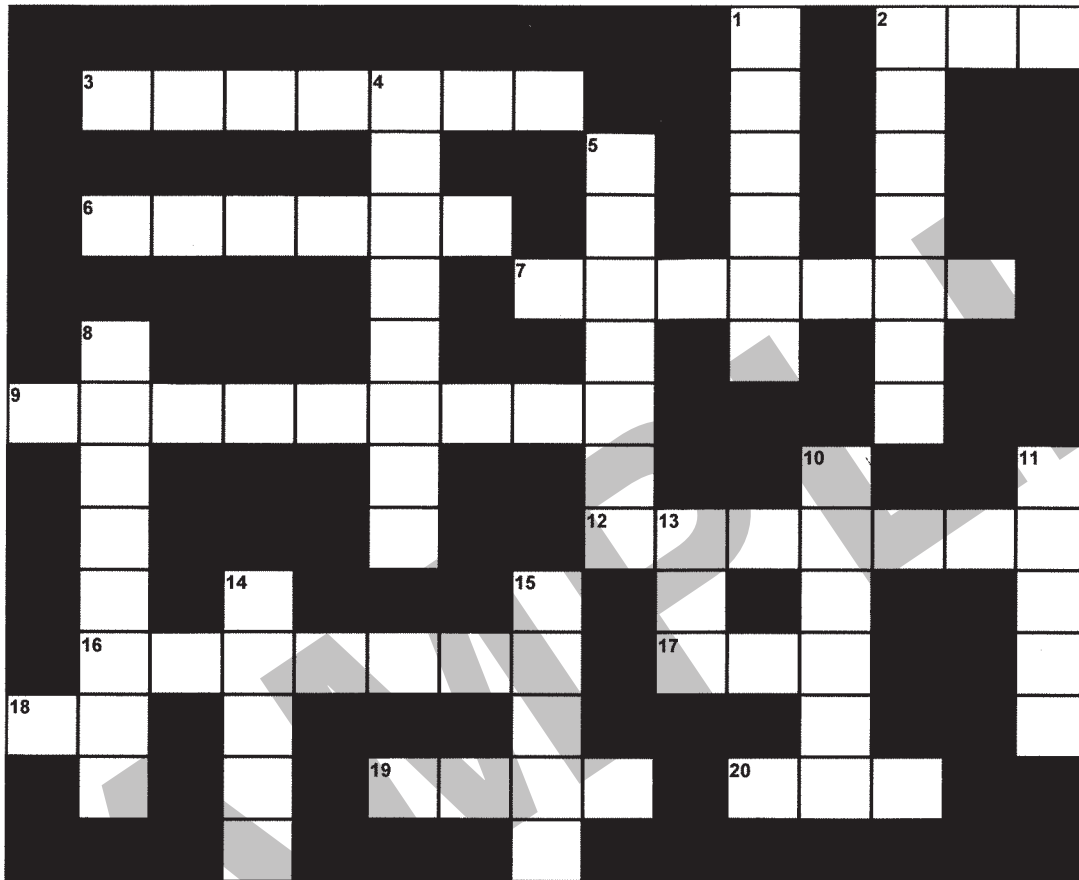


Leonardo's parents were never married. His mother was a peasant woman and his father was a wealthy notary. The first two years of his life, he was raised by his mother until his father's family took him to live at their estate. At the estate, he was exposed to beautiful grounds that intrigued him. Even as a young man, he would spend hours just observing nature. Since his father travelled a lot, he was raised by his grandparents. He never really felt like he belonged anywhere, since his mother and father both married other people and began their own families.



AMAZING ARTISTS CROSSWORD

Name: _____



ACROSS

2. Pollock died in a _____ accident.
3. The blurring of objects in the background is called _____.
6. Picasso developed a style of art known as _____.
7. Rembrandt painted during the _____ Period.
9. This artist earned lots of \$\$\$ but died poor.
12. Renaissance means _____ or reawakening.
16. The technique of using thick paint is called _____.
17. Van Gogh had this colour of hair.
18. Was Leonardo Da Vinci a Canadian?
19. Leonardo painted the "_____ Lisa".
20. Did Leonardo like to party?

DOWN

1. Pollock used the technique of "_____ Painting" in his art.
2. Picasso would sometimes dress up in _____ to paint.
4. This style of art has no specific form to it.
5. Fresco is a technique where paint is applied to wet _____.
8. The main topic of art from the Baroque Period was _____.
10. Pollock loved to stand in the _____ of his artwork.
11. Sculpture is a _____ - dimensional work of art.
13. Van Gogh mutilated his own _____.
14. Picasso was born in _____.
15. The Perspective technique uses a vanishing _____.

AMAZING ARTISTS

Periods Of Art

Humans have been creating art for hundreds of centuries - it is part of what makes us human. To help understand art better, let's examine five important Periods in the history of art:

- 1) *Renaissance Period* - Leonardo De Vinci (1452 - 1519), Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475 - 1564)
- 2) *Baroque Period* - Rembrandt Van Rijn (1606 - 1669), Peter Paul Rubens (1577 - 1640)
- 3) *Impressionism Period* - Vincent Van Gogh (1853 - 1890), Claude Monet (1840 - 1926), Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1841-1919)
- 4) *Cubism Period* - Pablo Picasso (1881 - 1973)
- 5) *Abstract Expressionism Period* - Jackson Pollock (1912 - 1956), Willem De Kooning (1904 - 1997)

During each period, art of certain styles and types was most common.



"GRUNT"
OG think YOU
"GRUNT" "GRUNT"
forgot about the
'EARLY CAVE'
"GRUNT" period!

Factfile: *Humans are the only species that create art - it's part of what makes us human!*