

## Leonardo da Vinci

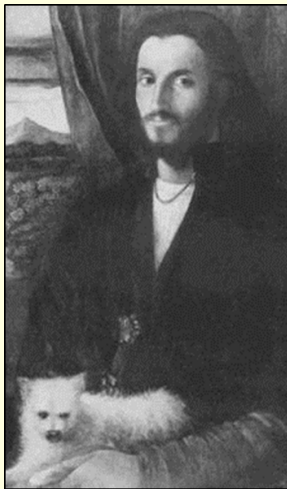
### The Original Renaissance Man

Leonardo was born in the village of Vinci – just outside of Florence. His mom was a peasant, but Leonardo was raised by his poor dad.



Leonardo da Vinci means “Leonardo of the village of Vinci.”





Young Leonardo

At age 13, Leonardo da Vinci moved into the city of Florence.



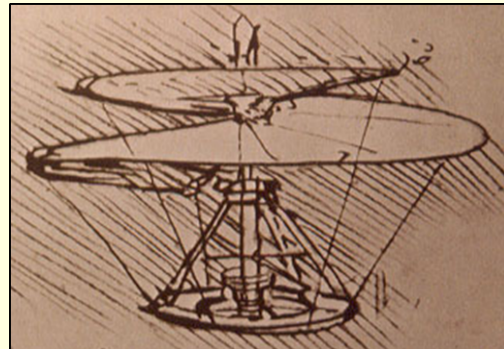
Andrea del Verrocchio

At age 13, he was apprenticed to Verrocchio, the leading painter and sculptor of his day. Every day, the two worked together on the same painting. One morning Verrocchio took a peek at Leonardo's work and realized that Leonardo's talent had surpassed his own. He resolved to never touch a paintbrush again. The student had outshone the teacher!

At age 30, Leonardo moved to Milan to work as court artist for Lodovico Sforza, the Duke of Milan. For 17 years, the Duke allowed Leonardo to pursue any project that captured his imagination. As a result, Leonardo became a “Renaissance Man” – artist, mathematician, anatomist, engineer, and inventor.



Lodovico Sforza, the  
Duke of Milan



Leonardo's drawing of a helicopter



Leonardo painted his masterpiece in 1497 called The Last Supper.

Jesus sits at the center of the table. He has just told the twelve disciples that one will betray Him. The disciples, sitting in clusters of three, are all shocked! (Judas, in the shadows, clutches a bag of silver.) It is the one of the most famous religious scenes in all of Christianity.

When Leonardo returned to Florence, he painted the Mona Lisa – probably the most famous portrait ever painted. The current theory is that the painting is of a real woman, Lisa del Giocondo, the young wife of a wealthy silk merchant.

**Is the Mona Lisa Smiling?**

Discuss various ideas about what the Mona Lisa could be thinking within your group.

