

Leonardo da Vinci

Leonardo da Vinci was born out of the wedlock on April 15, 1452 in Vinci, Italy, and died on May 2, 1519 in Amboise, France. He was raised by his father, Piero Fruosino di Antonio da Vinci, and his stepmothers. His father married 4 times, and it wasn't until his third and fourth marriage that Ser Piero produced heirs.

During his childhood, he received an informal education in geometry, Latin, and mathematics, but he only recorded 2 incidents. The first was where he thought it was an omen, when the tail of a kite brushed his face. The second occurred when he explored the mountains and found a cave, and he was terrified yet curious about what monsters live in the cave. During his childhood, Leonardo drew a picture of a monster who was shooting fire, which terrified Ser Piero so much that he sold the picture to the Florentine art dealer, which made its way to the Duke of Milan.

He was concerned with the law of science, which helped him as a painter, sculptor, inventor, and draftsman. He started learning art by being an apprentice to Verrocchio at the age of 14; this was the same year that Verrocchio's master, Donatello, a great sculptor, died. He learned new skills for 6 years so that he could improve his technical school. At age 20, he got qualified as a master artist in Guild of Saint Luke, and he decided to set up his own workshop. In 1473, his earliest known drawing in the workshop was with ink and pen of the Arno valley.

However, trouble arose at the age of 22, when Leonardo and 3 other men were charged with but acquitted of sodomy (intercourse) and he wasn't heard from in 2 years. It is assumed, however, that from 1476-1481, that he worked in his own workshop in Florence.

In the 1480s, Leonardo received 2 very important commissions and another painting he had to do which was important for composition, but unfortunately for Leonardo, 2 were never finished, and the third took a long time to finish. In fact, it took so long that completion and payment were negotiated lengthy. He drew a picture of "St. Jerome in the Wilderness." It was critiqued by Bortolon, who described it as a difficult period in Leonardo's life, as Leonardo's diary said, "I thought I was learning to live; I was only learning to die."

In 1482, he was commissioned by Lorenzo de' Medici to create a silver lyre and bring it to the Duke of Milan, Ludovico il Moro, because da Vinci felt his art and engineering talent would be great service in Ludovico's court, and Ludovico agreed. From 1482-1499, da Vinci worked on many great projects, and it was at this time that da Vinci painted "The Last Supper", and "The Virgin of the Rocks." He painted "The Last Supper" for the monastery of Santa Maria delle Grazie, and he painted "The Virgin of the Rocks" for the Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception.

"The Virgin of the Rocks" was painted in the 1480's, and it assisted was by the de Predis brothers, Giovanni Ambrogio de Predis, and Evangelista de Predis. This painting showed that Leonardo was interested in nature.

The most famous drawing in the 1490's is "The Last Supper." This painting shows the picture of the last meal shared by Jesus before he was captured and then died. Leonardo says that this picture shows that one of the followers of Jesus will betray him, which caused the feelings of anxiety and dismay to the followers.

However, it was during 1505 to 1507, that his most well-known and arguably the most famous painting in the world (present era) took place. The painting is known as the "Mona Lisa", and this was a privately commissioned work. Not only is this painting well known, but many people have different opinions about what this picture means. A historian at Columbia University, James Beck, explained, "It is the inherent spirituality of the human creature that

Leonardo was able to ingenuine to the picture that raises the human figure to some kind of majesty.” For da Vinci, this painting was forever a work in progress, as he wanted it to be perfect. He kept this picture with him until he died. The “Mona Lisa” hangs in the Louvre Museum in Paris, France, and is regarded as a priceless national treasure. The “Mona Lisa” is also called “la Gioconda”, the laughing one.

Leonardo da Vinci has been called the Renaissance man, and his talents extended far beyond his artistic work, as for example, he did not see a divide between science and art. His observations and inventions were recorded in an incredible 13,000 pages of notes and outstanding drawings. His ideas were rarely experimental, as they were usually laid out in exact detail. His drawings of a fetus in utero, the heart and vascular system, and other bone and muscular structures, are some of the first on the human record.

One of his final commissioned work was a mechanical lion that could walk and open his chest to reveal a bouquet of lilies. He was to do this painting for Francois I of France, who just recaptured Milan. Unfortunately, he died in 1519 in France. His assistant (perhaps his lover), Francesco Melzi, became the heir and executor of his estate. The death Leonardo da Vinci was a sad time for artists, especially for those living during the Renaissance.

However, his life is filled with impressive accomplishments. Leonardo was not known as a prolific painter, but he was a very prolific draftsmen because he would keep journals full of sketches and detailed paintings of anything that took his notice. What made Leonardo special was that his paintings had innovative techniques and it had uses of his knowledge like anatomy, botany and geology, and light. He also used his interest in physiognomy (assessment of person’s character and appearance outside the body, especially the face), gestures, figurative composition, and the gradation of tone. The paintings were important in some of his most famous paintings, like “the Mona Lisa,” “the Last Supper,” and “the Virgin of the Rocks.” His genius crossed so many disciplines that he is a perfect example of the term “Renaissance man.” Not only are “the Mona Lisa” and the “the Last Supper” one of the most

famous paintings in the world, but both are also one of the most admired paintings in the world.

Also, during his lifetimes, Leonardo created 23 major paintings (which included the Baptism of Christ, Virgin of Rocks, Lost Supper, and Mona Lisa), had seven paintings disputed (which included Tobias and the Angel and Bacchus), seven paintings that were lost (which included Adam and Eve and Medusa), seven paintings that are recent (which included Virgin of the Rocks Chermamy and Christ Carrying the Cross), and 10 manuscripts (which includes the Paris Manuscript and many Codex manuscript). However, 15 of his paintings were due to the fact that he did the whole or the large part of the paintings. He is rivaled by another painter, Michelangelo, who was alive during the same time as him. However, several of his paintings that were claimed by Leonardo has been disputed.

Of the 23 major paintings, nine are universally accepted that Leonardo did most or all of the paintings. Ten of the 23 drawings are generally accepted that Leonardo did most of the drawings. The Baptism of Christ was painted by Leonardo and Verrocchio. The Madonna Litta and The Madonna of the Yarnwinder (The Buccleuch Madonna) were painted by Leonardo and another artist (names aren't known.) The last of the 23 paintings, the Madonna of the Yarnwinder (The Lansdowne Madonna) was underdrawn by Leonardo. One of the disputed paintings were accepted by some scholars, and the paintings name was Salvator Mundi. The Paris Manuscripts has more than 2500 pages (by far the most pages of the manuscripts that Leonardo was involved in because the next pages closest to the Paris Manuscripts is 1,119 pages and that is the Codex Atlanticus and that lasted from 1478-1519) and it was made from 1488-1505. The 11th manuscript that he was a part in was made after his death by his pupil Francesco Melzi in 1930 and it was called the Codex Urbinas.

Games Notes: Leonardo da Vinci is also a close friend to Ezio Auditore da Firenze in a game called Assassins Creed II. He would help Ezio out many ways like giving him better weapons and deciphering codex. Even in the games he would look at things and he finds

things as interesting and inspiring as in real life. His birth and death were similar to real life as in the game, but what he did in Assassins Creed is a little bit different from real life because he helped you out to beat the enemies in the game (the Templars) and helped the assassins in this game.

In Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, the turtle named Leonardo is based off Leonardo da Vinci. Leonardo is the turtle who wears a blue bandana and his main weapons are 2 ninjatos. He is considered the eldest and most disciplined of the ninja turtles, which include Michelangelo, Donatello, and Raphael, where those 3 are also based off famous artists.

Other Notes: The Da Vinci Code is also based on Leonardo Da Vinci's drawing of the Vitruvian Man where the victim posed like him. The book has had some controversy because many of the Christian denominations thought it was an attack by the Roman Catholic Church. It also has a lot of historical inaccuracies and the writer, Dan Brown, has been accused of distorting and fabricating history. Despite this, the book sold 80 million copies since 2009 and it has been translated into 44 languages. This book also has a lot of parodies.

Personal Opinion about Leonardo da Vinci

I have learned about Leonardo da Vinci before because I did have to talk about the "Mona Lisa" before. My opinions about how much I love his paintings have changed to absolutely loving his paintings. He may not be the most perfect painter in the world, but he is still, in my opinion, one of the best artists ever in history. I have never seen the "the Virgin of the Rock" or "the Last Supper" until I did this report about him, and those 2 pictures are

definitely are going to be on the PowerPoint project, along the “Mona Lisa.” There are many other pictures that are going to be on the PowerPoint project, but these 3 are going to be talked about the most because of how impressive they are. My impression of the “Mona Lisa” is that she is happy despite the fact that it looks like the background was destroyed because it was in a battle area (possibly war?) A picture of a mechanical lion, which I want to put in the PowerPoint presentation, will not be in the presentation.

In games, I loved the facts that he is used in games like Assassins Creed II, and I love it even more in Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles that they have a character based off him. I have never played or watch Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles before, but I do know about the turtle’s name because I have been told by friends and brothers about this because they love the Ninja Turtles. He is joined by Michelangelo, Raphael, and Donatello, and the best part is not just Leonardo, but the other 3 are also based of famous people. However, I do know about Assassins Creed II because I have played it a little and he does use lines and does have same inspiring moments in the game as in real life, which I love.

Cited Source:

"Leonardo da Vinci." *Bio*. A&E Television Networks, 2015. Web. 12 Feb. 2015.

"Leonardo Da Vinci Biography." *Leonardo Da Vinci Biography*. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Feb. 2015.

Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, n.d. Web. 13 Feb. 2015.

"Leonardo Da Vinci." *History.com*. A&E Television Networks, n.d. Web. 11 Feb. 2015.

"Leonardo Da Vinci." *Assassin's Creed Wiki*. N.p., n.d. Web. 15 Feb. 2015.

Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, n.d. Web. 22 Feb. 2015.

"Leonardo (Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles)." *Wikipedia*. Wikimedia Foundation, n.d. Web. 22 Feb. 2015.