

Michelangelo Buonarroti

(my-kel-AN-jel-loe bwoh-nah-ROW-tee)
Italian Painter

1475 – 1564

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Fresco - painting on wet plaster walls and ceilings. When the plaster is damp, the paint is absorbed into the plaster and gives a longer lasting finished work.



Michelangelo was born in Caprese, Italy (known today as Caprese Michelangelo) in the area of modern day Tuscany. He grew up in Florence where his father was an official. His mother died when he was six.

He became a sculptor, painter, poet, architect and engineer. He was considered an influential "High Renaissance" man. He was trained in fresco painting and then studied at the Medici school where he became a sculptor. The Medici School introduced him to many people, including artists, philosophers, poets and writers. The Medici family was very influential in Italy's art and politics at the time.



At 17 Michelangelo was struck on the nose by another painting apprentice, causing the disfigurement seen in portraits of him.

He became well known for his art during his lifetime. He was the first Western artist whose biography (there were two) was published while he was still alive. Giorgio Vasari (also wrote about Da Vinci – but after his death) wrote one of the two biographies. While he was alive he was often called "Il Divino" ("the divine one") and sometimes, "inventor delle porcherie" ("inventor of obscenities") because of the many nudes depicted in his work.



He is famous for a number of his works in painting (the scenes from Genesis on the ceiling and the *Last Judgment* on the altar wall of the Sistine Chapel in Rome), sculpture, (*Pietà* and *David* were sculpted before he was 30) and architecture (*St. Peter's Basilica*). His output in every field during his long life was prodigious; when the sheer volume of correspondence, sketches, and reminiscences that survive is also taken into account, he is the best-documented artist of the 16th century.

Pope Julius II asked him to paint the ceiling of the Vatican's Sistine Chapel with frescoes. The job was an enormous undertaking that took over four years of him painting, at times lying on his back. To do this, he built a tall, strong scaffold with wooden planks so that he could climb up and be close enough to the ceiling to paint it.



Portrait of Michelangelo by Jacopino del Conte (after 1535 ~ 60). *Self Portrait as the head of Holofernes*, Sistine Chapel ceiling ~ 1510 (35). *Statue of David*, 1504 (29). *Pietà*, depicts the body of Jesus his mother, Mary's lap, after the Crucifixion, 1499 (24). *The Sistine Chapel ceiling*, 1508–1512 (33–37). (Daniel, Temptation and Fall, The Prophet Joel, Creation of Adam, Isaiah). *Moses with Rachel and Leah*, 1515 (40). Michelangelo designed the dome of *St. Peter's Basilica* c.1564 (89), although it was unfinished when he died

What do you remember?

1. What is Fresco painting? _____

2. What “careers” did Michelangelo use his talents for? _____

3. Who was the biographer that wrote books about both Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo? _____
4. Michelangelo’s nose was used as a model of perfection in his and other’s work. T or F _____
5. What do you know of Michelangelo’s spiritual journey?

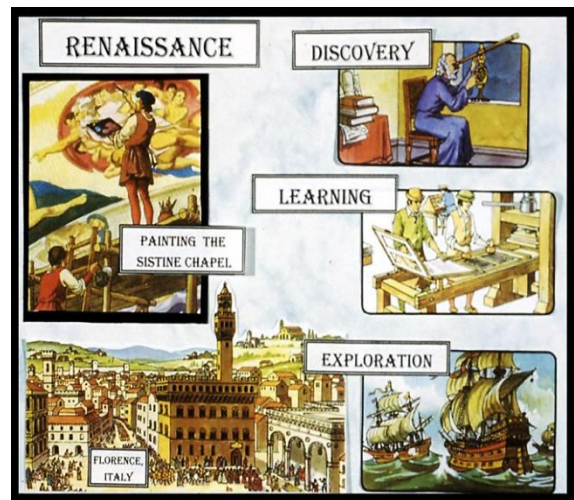


Pieta Firenze, c. 1555 (~80).

Additional notes:

Historical Timeline What

- 1380 – Wycliffe begins English Bible translation
- 1438 – Gutenberg’s printing press invented
- 1453 – Fall of Constantinople
- 1454 – 66 “Thirteen Year” War
- 1455 – 85 War of the Roses
- 1478 – Spanish Inquisition begins
- 1492 – End of Muslim Rule in Spain
- 1492 – Columbus arrives in North America
- 1513 – De Leon discovers Florida
- 1517 – Coffee arrives in Europe Panama isthmus
- 1520 – 22 Voyages of Magellan
- 1520 – Chocolate brought from Mexico to Spain
- 1534 – Church of England separates from Rome



Who

- 1396 – 1468 – Johann Gutenberg, printing
- 1412 – 1431 – Joan D’Arc
- 1452 – 1519 – Leonardo da Vinci
- 1469 – 1527 – Machiavelli
- 1475 – 1564 – Michelangelo Buonorotti
- 1478 – 1535 – Thomas More
- 1483 – 1546 – Martin Luther
- 1491 – 1547 – King Henry VII
- 1503 – 1566 – Nostradamus
- 1505 – 1572 – John Knox
- 1533 – 1603 – Queen Elizabeth I