

Rembrandt van Rijn

Quiz:

- 1. Leonardo da Vinci’s “last name” came from somewhere. What about Rembrandt’s?
_____.
- 2. What is the name given to the season in Dutch history around the 1600’s when affluence led to many cultural achievements? _____.
- 3. Rembrandt’s frequent use of himself as a model gives us some historical information about him. T or F ?
- 4. Rembrandt’s great number of famous works and popularity as a painter throughout his life provided a comfortable living for him and his family right up to the day he died. T or F ?
- 5. What do you know about Rembrandt’s spiritual journey?



Rembrandt Wearing a Soft Hat, Cocked, 1631 (25).

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Quiz Answers:

1. His father had a house on the Rijn river.
2. Dutch Golden Age.
3. True. It's a pictorial "biography."
4. False. His popularity waned, he wasn't wise with his money, so he lost his house, his art collection and was poor.

Rembrandt's Faith is a book created by Shelley Perlove (Professor of Art History at the University of Michigan) and Larry Silver (Professor of Art History at the University of Pennsylvania). "*Rembrandt's Faith* addresses the artist's religious imagery. Rembrandt weighed in on important religious issues of his day and was a close student of the Bible. He also shared the Dutch propensity to draw analogies between the biblical tales of the "chosen people" and Dutch society, including commentary on righteous leadership under God's covenant... He avidly studied seventeenth-century reconstructions of the Jerusalem Temple and frequently located his biblical narratives in re-creations of these spaces."

From WikiAnswers.com:

Was Rembrandt a Christian? Best Answer: Yes, Mother was Catholic, Father was Calvinist. Rembrandt honored his Father's freedom from Papal corruption. Rembrandt painted many Biblical pictures of obscure stories in the Bible not often read by Christians of the twenty-first century.

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Rembrandt acknowledged his penchant for extravagance by painting himself as the Prodigal Son, squandering money in the taverns with his wife. In fact, Rembrandt often featured himself in his Bible paintings. In *The Raising of the Cross*, he even kept himself in his modern clothes to emphasize his personal involvement in the crucifixion. He believed the personalities in the Bible were like those of his Amsterdam acquaintances, so he painted these characters as he would his friends, with "the greatest and most natural emotion."

When Rembrandt died he left behind one daughter, 650 paintings, 280 etchings, and 1,400 drawings. Among his last works is one of his most famous, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, which depicts the opulent and sinful sinner returning home to the presence of his father.

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