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Sample Descriptive Essay on Leonardo Da Vinci

Leonardo Da Vinci The Polymath

Leonardo Da Vinci is a well-known renaissance artist. He created the marvels; Mona Lisa, The Last Supper, and the Annunciation. He was a master painter and a relentless disciple of knowledge until the end of his well but short-lived life. Though known for his surreal and grandiose paintings, Leonardo Da Vinci was a seeker of knowledge above all else. For him, the world was filled with incredible things that sparked a never-ending curiosity and a vast sea of new things to discover. Leonardo Da Vinci was a celebrated painter, a methodical sculptor, an architect, engineer, mathematician, astronomer, biologist, and many more. He was a student of the natural world and used all the knowledge from different fields to produce works of art that would echo his brilliance beyond the years of his life.

Young Years of Leonardo Da Vinci

Young Leonardo was born in the town of Vinci in Florence, Italy. His mother was a peasant woman and was absent for most of his life. His father, Ser Piero, was a notary and a landlord in Vinci. He lived most of his early young innocent life in his father's estate. He would play all around the large vicinity of the estate with his uncle, Francesco. It was this fun-loving yet curious uncle that helped spark Leonardo's interest in the grandeur of the natural world. Leonardo and Francesco would play around the grasslands of Vinci. They would throw stones on the river and watch how the small balls of hard earth bounced off the surface of the water. They

would watch busy insects marching in a straight line and follow the small creatures until it's time for the young Leonardo to go home.

When Ser Piero, Leonardo's father, noticed the young man's inclination for art, Leonardo was enrolled in Verrochio's workshop. Andrea del Verrochio was a renowned artist in Florence. Young Leonardo stayed and lived in Verrochio's workshop for many years. Here he refined his fundamental artistic skills in painting and sculpting. Even as a young artist, Leonardo was able to paint at a higher level than his mentor. In one case when Verrochio asked Leonardo to paint curly hairs in a painting, Leonardo was able to paint a realistic hair rivaling the work of Verrochio. As his expertise in the liberal arts grew, his thirst for knowledge increased. Leonardo had the idea of using scientific methods and observations to further improve the depth of his artworks.

In Service of the Duke of Milan

Leonardo left his birthplace, Florence, along with some unfinished works such as The Adoration of Magi and an altar painting for St. Bernard Chapel. Leonardo spent the next 17 years of his life in Milan as an artist and engineer in the Duke's court (Heydenreich). Leonardo painted illustrious portraits and sculptures for the Duke. Due to the broad knowledge that Leonardo has cultivated over the years, he also became a military adviser in Milan. He designed engineering marvels ahead of his time such as a collapsible bridge, an early version of a tank, a helicopter, and even an underwater suit. This showed Leonardo's boundless creativity and analytic mind. His sketches and designs were backed up by scientific data and observations of the natural world. Though Leonardo showed these innovative designs to the Duke, the monarch was more interested in funding the artistic works of the artist.

The Duke of Milan assigned Leonardo to create a towering equestrian bronze statue in honor of Francesco Sforza. For 12 years, Leonardo worked on and off on this colossal task. But due to the threats of war, the bronze materials that were supposed to envelop the clay statue and turn it into a masterpiece the world has never seen became nothing but just another material for cannons. As the wages of war haunt the fallen streets of Milan, Leonardo's bronze statue was left unguarded. The once monumental endeavor of the greatest artist Italy has ever seen is now just a plaything for the victors of war.

Leonardo Da Vinci - The Renaissance Man

Most people know Leonardo Da Vinci for painting the Mona Lisa and the Last Supper.

Two world-renowned paintings that we see frequently in movies and other media. Though Leonardo Da Vinci is a painter in the eyes of many, what he truly is, is a polymath. A true renaissance man expert in a vast variety of fields. The curious mind of a child that wandered the grassland of Vinci with his uncle never left Leonardo. He sees art in the smallest things and questions even the most trivial matters.

These traits led Leonardo to venture into different fields. He wanted to make his paintings reflect the raw beauty of nature. He studied how moisture and sunlight produce the blue color of the sky. With this knowledge, he learned that distant objects are veiled in a blue hue. So in his later paintings, Leonardo painted hints of blue to his mountains and valleys to create the illusion of distance. Leonardo also studied anatomy to create accurate proportions when sketching and painting. He would walk the busy streets of Italy, observing how the people moved and reacted. Leonardo would often find a model in one of the people littering the streets. He would study their facial features and body proportion. He studied how muscles react by watching wild horses gallop in the windy grasslands of Italy. He observed how birds are able to

fly and used this knowledge to design a flying mechanism. Leonardo also studied the dead bodies of people. Sketching internal organs with pinpoint accuracy that can rival modern models. He studied how the eyes work and used this knowledge to better design his art.

Leonardo's passion for art stemmed into an incredible human feat. He was a man ahead of his time with ideas of inventions and innovations that later scientists would rediscover years after his death. He made paintings and sculptures that became prime examples of master craftsmanship. Yet on his deathbed, Leonardo felt that he had so much left undone. He made scientific discoveries, brought new perspectives in making art, and mentored young artists that would carry his legacy.

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