Leonardo da Vinci was an Italian artist, inventor, and scientist. People think he had one of the greatest minds in history.

Leonardo da Vinci had many interests. He liked art, science, and making things. He was a great artist and a creative thinker!

Take a Closer Look

- A portrait is a picture of someone. A self-portrait is a picture you take or make of yourself. Circle Leonardo’s self-portrait.

- Leonardo drew things that interested him. Underline three of them.

- What are three things that you like to do?
  1. ________________________________
  2. ________________________________
  3. ________________________________
A Boy in Italy

Leonardo da Vinci was born in 1452 in Vinci, Italy. His name means Leonardo from Vinci. Leonardo liked painting when he was little. Some say he painted a beast on a wooden shield when he was just a young boy. It was so good that an art dealer bought it.

Learning on the Job

When Leonardo was 14, he moved to Florence. Florence is a big city in Italy. Leonardo worked for a great artist named Andrea del Verrocchio. Leonardo learned how to draw, paint, and sculpt. He also learned how to work with wood, leather, and metals.

A Creative Mind

We know a lot about Leonardo from his notebooks. He filled pages with drawings, notes, and inventions. He drew birds flying. Then he drew designs for other things that could fly. There are pictures of helicopters and hang gliders in his notes. They didn’t even exist back then! He liked knowing how things worked. He drew parts of the human body. He studied what they did and how they worked together. Leonardo liked art, science, and making things. His famous paintings include The Last Supper and the Mona Lisa.

Amazing Fact!