

Good morning, I am Leonardo da Vinci... one of the great masters of the Renaissance as I was a painter, sculptor, architect, engineer and scientist. I was born on April fifteen, 1452 in the small town of Vinci, near Florence in Tuscany. My father was a wealthy Florentine lawyer and my mother was a peasant woman. I was given the best education that Florence could offer, because I lived with my father for most of my life. I was handsome, a good improviser and a fine musician. In 1466 I was apprenticed as a "garzone" to Andrea del Verrochio, who was a leading Florentine painter and sculptor. I was taught how to paint, sculpt and was considered Verrochio's assistant.

Soon after, I moved to Milan and worked for Ludovico Sforza the Duke of Milan. As I gained more experience I became a better painter and from 1495 to 1497 I laboured on my masterpiece, The Last Supper. Unfortunately, I experimented with the use of oil on a dry plaster and by 1500, my painting began to deteriorate. During this time I also worked on the Milan Cathedral. In 1502 I moved back to Florence and painted several portraits, but the only one that survived was my famous piece: *Mona Lisa* which is one of the most celebrated portraits ever painted. Towards the end of the year I began to design a decoration for the great hall of the Palazzo Vecchio.

The Mona Lisa is an oil painting on a very popular wood. The painting is now owned by the French government and hangs in Paris. My painting shows a woman looking at the viewer with a mysterious smile. This painting is one of the most famous pieces in art history and I am quite proud of it.

My more impressive work was my studies in science and engineering. I wrote 13,000 pages of notes and drawings in which I wrote as I traveled through Europe. I also drew many images of the human skeleton and I could represent the human skull extremely well. I also drew many images of the lungs, urinary tracts and sex organs. My study of human anatomy led to the design of the first known robot in recorded history. My design was made in the 1490s but was rediscovered in the 1950's.

Later in my life, I had a fascination in flight. I studied the flight of birds and constructed several flying machines including a helicopter which was powered by four men. I also made a hang glider which would have worked if the body did not rotate.

I spent my last years at the Château de Cloux, near Amboise and I died on May 2, 1519.

Buon giorno, sono Vinci di da di Leonardo... uno dei grandi padroni del Rinascimento come ero pittore, lo scultore, l'architetto, l'ingegnere e lo scienziato. Ero nato il quindici aprile, 1452 nella città piccola di Vinci, vicino a Firenze in Toscana. Mio padre era un avvocato ricco Fiorentino e mia madre era la donna di contadino. Sono stato dato l'educazione migliore che Firenze potrebbe offrire, perché ho vissuto con mio padre per la maggior parte della mia vita. Ero bello, un improviser buono ed un bel musicista. In 1466 sono stato come apprenticed un "garzone" a Verrochio di del di Andrea, che era un condurre il pittore Fiorentino e lo scultore. È stato insegnato come dipingere, lo sculpt e è stato considerato l'assistente del Verrochio.