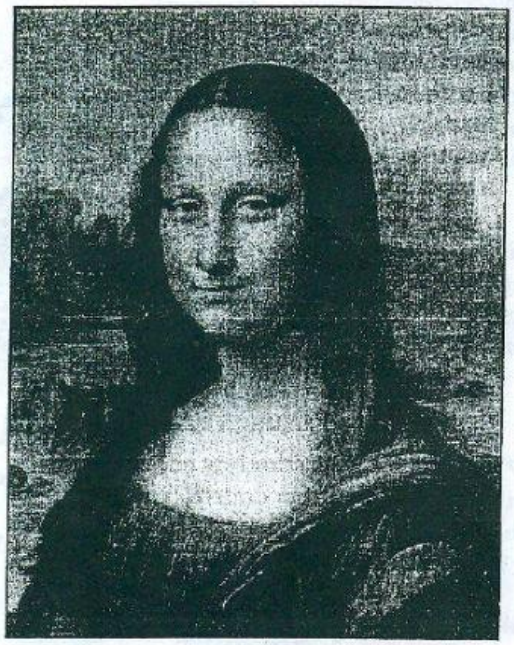
The Mona Lisa 15



Before You Read

Answer the following questions.

1. What do you know about this painting?

2. Why do you think it is so famous?

3. Do you know any other famous paintings? What do you know about them?

Target Vocabulary

Match each word with the best meaning.

1. _____ portrait	**a.** to take something from someone without asking
2. _____ museum	**b.** a painting of a person
3. _____ visitor	**c.** put something where people can't find it
4. _____ hide	**d.** a place that shows valuable art or historical objects
5. _____ steal	**e.** worth a lot of money
6. _____ valuable	**f.** a tourist

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Reading Passage

Track 15



Leonardo da Vinci[1] began painting the Mona Lisa, one of the most famous paintings of all time, in 1503. He was working on a special painting for a church at the time, but it was not going well. The woman who can be seen in the Mona Lisa is said to be Madonna Lisa del Giocondo. She was the wife of an Italian businessman who asked da Vinci to paint a portrait of her.

After da Vinci finished the painting in 1506 he was invited by the French King, Francois I, to visit France, and he took the painting with him. Today the Mona Lisa is kept in the Louvre, an art museum in Paris, and it is seen by about six million visitors a year.

The painting measures only 77 centimeters by 53 centimeters and is painted with oil on wood. In 1911, it was stolen by a worker at the Louvre, Vincenzo Peruggia, who took it out of the museum by hiding it under his coat. Two years later police found the painting under Peruggia's bed after he tried to sell it.

In 1962, the Mona Lisa was taken to Washington and New York for an exhibition.[2] For the journey, it was insured[3] for 100 million dollars, making it the most valuable painting ever!

_____ minutes _____ seconds (217 words)

Did You Know?

Leonardo da Vinci (pictured above) is said to have been very strong. People say he was able to twist a horseshoe with one hand!

[1] **Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519)** a famous Italian architect, inventor, engineer, sculptor, and painter
[2] **exhibition** a display (e.g., of art)
[3] **insure** arrange to get money if something is broken or stolen

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Vocabulary Reinforcement

A. Circle the letter of the word or phrase that best completes the sentence.

1. Be careful with this glass. It's really _____.
   a. intelligent b. fee c. valuable d. insured
2. That's a great _____ of Kimberley. It looks just like her.
   a. program b. desert c. exhibition d. portrait
3. The race _____ for Rupert. He won!
   a. went well b. expanded c. matched d. stole
4. New York is famous for its _____.
   a. visitors b. museums c. caves d. palaces
5. My new bicycle was _____ from in front of my house.
   a. hidden b. disappeared c. stolen d. invited
6. My grandmother didn't like banks so she _____ money in her home.
   a. hid b. stole c. worked out d. put to good use

B. Complete the passage with items from the box. One item is extra.

hidden	stolen	valuable	said to be	visitors	of all time

The Mona Lisa, a portrait (1)_____ of a woman called Madonna Lisa del Giocondo, is the most famous painting (2)_____. Six million (3)_____ see it every year. It was (4)_____ in 1911, but the police found it (5)_____ under a museum worker's bed.

What Do You Think?

1. What is the most famous work of art in your country?
2. What do you think are the three best works of art in the world?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Reading Comprehension

Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. What is the best title for this passage?
   a. Leonardo da Vinci—an Interesting Painter
   b. The Louvre—a Famous French Art Museum
   c. Vincenzo Peruggia—the Man Who Stole the Mona Lisa
   d. The Mona Lisa—the Most Valuable Painting of All Time

2. When did Leonardo da Vinci finish painting the Mona Lisa?
   a. 1503 c. 1911
   b. 1506 d. 1962

3. Who is Madonna Lisa del Giocondo said to be?
   a. the painter of the Mona Lisa
   b. the woman in the painting
   c. the wife of the French king
   d. the woman who asked da Vinci to paint the Mona Lisa.

4. Why did da Vinci go to France?
   a. to visit the Louvre c. He was invited by Francois I.
   b. to paint the Mona Lisa d. He was invited by Madonna Lisa del Giocondo.

5. What sentence about Vincenzo Peruggia is NOT true?
   a. He worked in an art museum. c. He sold the painting.
   b. He stole the Mona Lisa. d. He hid the painting under his bed.

Idioms

Find each idiom in the story.

1. **said to (be)**—*thought by many people to (be)*
   - Prudle the parrot was said to know over 800 English words.
   - Rick's dad is said to earn 2 million dollars a year.

2. **go well**—*succeed*
   - Rebecca's new job is going really well. She's very happy.
   - The course I'm studying isn't going very well. It's too difficult.

3. **of all time**—*ever; in history*
   - Many people think Pele is the best soccer player of all time.
   - The tallest man of all time was 2.72 meters tall.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS