



Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_

INSTRUCTIONS: READ THE ARTICLE AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS:



Leonardo da Vinci, 1452-1519  
(self-portrait)

## Is this the most talented person who ever lived? 3a

Leonardo da Vinci was born in a small village in Tuscany, Italy on 15th April 1452. He was very intelligent and curious and learnt lots of things by himself. In his lifetime, he achieved incredible things! So is this man the most talented person ever? Read this, then you decide!

### The Painter

As a young man, da Vinci studied painting in Florence. Two of his paintings, the *Mona Lisa* (or *La Gioconda*) and *The Last Supper*, are among the most famous paintings of all time! Today, only about 15 of his finished paintings survive (he often didn't finish them because he was busy with other things), but most people consider him to be one of the greatest painters who ever lived.

Da Vinci was also a sculptor, a musician, a mathematician, a philosopher, an architect, a writer, and a geologist. Five centuries after his death, he is still one of the most fascinating people in history.

### The Inventor

Da Vinci's notebooks contain detailed sketches for a whole range of inventions which were centuries ahead of their time. These include a sort of helicopter, flying machines, a calculator, a parachute, and even robots. With today's technology and materials many of da Vinci's designs could work very well.

### The Scientist

Da Vinci studied plants, animals and the human body, and made detailed drawings and notes about them. He used 'mirror' writing, probably because he didn't want everyone to understand the notes! His sketch *Vitruvian Man* shows the perfect proportions of the human body. This is possibly the best-known drawing in the world.

#### Check these words

talented, intelligent, curious, lifetime, achieve, incredible, survive, consider, engineer, industry, accurate, canal system, construct, based on, detailed, a whole range, ahead of their time, calculator, parachute, material, mirror, perfect proportions, sculptor, philosopher, geologist

#### 4 Use the past simple of the verbs in the list to complete the sentences.

- invent
- not paint
- die
- start
- not discover

- 1 The artist van Gogh ..... *Wild Poppies*. Claude Monet did.
- 2 Beethoven ..... composing music at an early age.
- 3 The Spanish artist Diego Velásquez ..... in 1660.
- 4 Alexander Graham Bell ..... the telephone in 1876.
- 5 Isaac Newton ..... radioactivity. Henri Becquerel did.

PART II. WRITE DOWN THE IRREGULAR VERBS.

4 a) Put the verbs in brackets into the *past simple*. Which are irregular past forms?

## King Tut's Tomb

Tutankhamun 1) ..... (become) Pharaoh of Egypt at a very young age. He 2) ..... (rule) for only nine years because he 3) ..... (die) at the age of 18. The people 4) ..... (bury) him in the Valley of the Kings in southern Egypt.

Over 3,000 years later, in 1922 an archaeologist, Henry Carter, 5) ..... (find) the forgotten tomb. It 6) ..... (have) a lot of treasures inside it, including a beautiful gold mask. After Carter 7) ..... (open) Tut's tomb, one of his men 8) ..... (get) sick and died, a cobra 9) ..... (eat) Carter's pet bird and other strange things 10) ..... (happen). Some people believe this is because of a terrible ancient curse!

PART II. READ THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH AND CHOOSE TRUE OR FALSE.

**Check these words**

Pilgrims, sail, newly-discovered, land, ship, captain, voyage, ill, settle, survive, native, hunt, crops, corn, celebrate, feast, harvest, celebration, tradition

**Voyage to America**

On September 6th 1620, 100 people sailed from England for a better life in North America, a newly-discovered land. They called this land 'the New World'. Their ship was called the *Mayflower* and its captain was Christopher Jones. Bad weather made the voyage very difficult and many people became ill. After 66 days, these first 'Pilgrims' finally saw land. They settled in an area where they started a new town, Plymouth.

**Life in the New World**

At first, life wasn't easy for the Pilgrims, and only about half of them survived their first winter. The Native Americans who lived there taught them how to fish and hunt and grow crops, such as corn.

**Celebrating the First Harvest**

In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims had a big feast with all the foods from their first harvest. Every year after that, the people had a similar celebration, and this harvest feast soon became a very important American tradition called Thanksgiving.

1 Who were the Pilgrims? Decide which sentences are *T* (true) and which are *F* (false).

- 1 The Pilgrims sailed to North America from Spain.
- 2 They sailed on the *Mayflower*.
- 3 The journey took one year.
- 4 Many Pilgrims died during their first winter.
- 5 The people they found were hunters and farmers.
- 6 The Pilgrims had a big celebration the next summer.
- 7 The local people were very unfriendly.