

Warm-Up

28

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Leonardo Da Vinci

Leonardo Da Vinci, born in 1452, was one of the most unusual men who ever lived. He was a genius in many fields of learning. He was born in Vinci, a small community in Italy. He studied art in Florence. Leonardo worked in Florence and Milan as an artist and a sculptor. He worked for powerful **dukes** controlling those cities. He also designed special stage shows using machines that he designed and built.

Leonardo planned many projects that he did not finish. These included a bronze horse that was used for weapons practice by soldiers. Da Vinci worked on the *Mona Lisa*, his most famous painting, for many years, but it was never completed. However, the rather hard-to-read smile on the woman's face is one of

the most famous images in the history of art. Leonardo spent the last three years of his life at the castle of his last patron, the king of France. He died there in 1519.

Leonardo often studied the flight of birds. He used these studies to make designs for flying machines. He was always seeking the perfect balance between art and beauty in design. He was interested in the bodies of animals. He studied the inner structure of the human body. Da Vinci kept journals of his thoughts. They were written left-handed and in mirror writing. He did this so that his ideas could not be stolen by others. Leonardo was truly an amazing and unusual genius.

## Check Your Understanding

- Which of the following pieces of information would *not* be relevant to the passage?
  - Leonardo experimented with new types of paints in some of his paintings.
  - Leonardo's sculptures demonstrated a sense of harmony in life.
  - Leonardo designed many machines that could not be made.
  - Columbus sailed to America during Leonardo's lifetime.
- Why would Leonardo write his papers left-handed and in mirror writing?
  - He was left-handed.
  - He only saw things as if in a mirror.
  - He was secretive and distrusted others.
  - both a and c
- What is the author's purpose in writing the passage?
  - to encourage the reader to become an artist
  - to persuade the reader
  - to inform the reader
  - to make the reader laugh
- From the context of the passage, which of the following means about the same as **dukes**?
  - kings of nations
  - elected national leaders
  - city rulers who inherit their jobs
  - presidents of small countries