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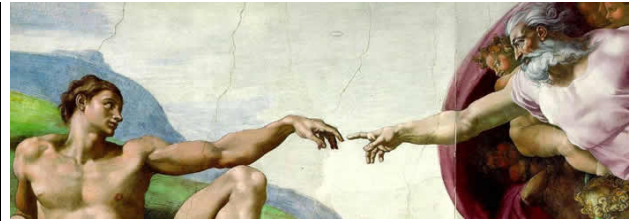
Renaissance Art

The Renaissance patrons wanted art that showed joy in human beauty and life's pleasures. Renaissance art is more lifelike than in the art of the Middle Ages. Renaissance artists studied perspective, or the differences in the way things look when they are close to something or far away. The artists painted in a way that showed these differences. As a result, their paintings seem to have depth.

An artist from Florence named Giotto was one of the first to paint in this new style. Giotto lived more than a century before the beginning of the Renaissance, but his paintings show real emotion. The bodies look solid, and the background of his paintings shows perspective. The art produced during the Renaissance would build upon Giotto's style.

Leonardo da Vinci was born in 1452 in the village of Vinci. His name means Leonardo of Vinci. Leonardo began his career working for a master painter in Florence. By 1478, Leonardo left his master and set up his own workshop. People have been trying to guess the secret behind the smile of his *Mona Lisa* ever since he painted it around 1505. His *Last Supper* shows clearly the different feelings of Jesus and his followers.

Leonardo's fame grew—but not just for his painting. Leonardo was truly a “Renaissance Man,” skilled in many fields. He was a scientist and an



inventor as well as an artist. He made notes and drawings of everything he saw. Leonardo invented clever machines, and even designed imitation wings that he hoped would let a person fly like a bird.

Michelangelo Buonarroti of Florence was one of the greatest artists of all time. Like Leonardo, Michelangelo was a “Renaissance Man” of many talents. He was a sculptor, a painter, and an architect. When Michelangelo carved a statue of Moses, he included veins and muscles in the arms and legs.

The ceiling of the Sistine Chapel is one of the world's most famous paintings, but not everyone was happy with Michelangelo's work. Cardinal Biagio de Cesena noted that the crowd of more than 300 human figures would be more appropriate in a wine shop than in a papal chapel. Michelangelo responded to this criticism by adding a portrait of Biagio among the figures of the damned in the scene of the Last Judgment.

Michelangelo was a devout Christian, and the church was his greatest patron. He designed the dome of St. Peter's church in Rome. Nearby, Michelangelo's paintings cover the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, the building where new popes have been selected for more than five hundred years. Michelangelo's painting illustrates the Book of Genesis, with scenes that span from the

Creation to the Flood. The project was very difficult. Working alone, Michelangelo had to lie on his back atop high scaffolding while he painted the vast ceiling.

Answer in Complete Sentences

*1. How was Renaissance art different from the art that preceded it?

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Fill in the Blanks

Renaissance artists and their p_____ expressed themselves through
*p_____ and sculpture long before the advent of the electronic media. Renaissance
p_____ wanted a_____ that showed j_____ in human b_____ and life's
p_____. Renaissance a_____ is more l_____ than the a_____ of the
M_____ A_____. Renaissance artists studied p_____, or the
d_____ in the w_____ things l_____ when they are c_____ to
s_____ or f_____ away. Perspective gave R_____ paintings the
illusion of d_____.

A Florentine a_____ named G_____ was one of the f_____ to
p_____ in this n_____ style. Giotto's p_____ showed real e_____.
People and objects are less *f_____ in his work. Leonardo da V_____ was a man of many
t_____. Leonardo's art included the mysterious M_____ L_____, but he was a
"R_____ Man," with s_____ in many fields. L_____ was
also a s_____ and an i_____. Like Leonardo,
M_____ Buonarroti was another "R_____ Man."
Michelangelo was famous as a s_____, a p_____, and an
a_____. He d_____ the d_____ of St. P_____ 's church in
R_____. Nearby, M_____ 's paintings cover the c_____ of the
S_____ Chapel.

Answer in Complete Sentences

2. What was unique about Michelangelo's *Moses*?

3. What did Michelangelo paint on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel?

*4. Why would the church want a Michelangelo's painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel?
