

# Leonardo da Vinci

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# Leonardo da Vinci

- **Leonardo da Vinci** (April 15, 1452 – May 2, 1519) was a celebrated Italian Renaissance architect, musician, inventor, engineer, sculptor and painter.

He has been described as the archetype of the "Renaissance man" and as a universal genius. Leonardo is well known for his masterly paintings, such as *The Last Supper* and *Mona Lisa*. He is also known for his many inventions that were conceived well before their time but of which few were constructed in his lifetime. In addition, he helped advance the study of anatomy, astronomy, and civil engineering.



# Life

- His life was described in Giorgio Vasari's biography *Vite*.

Leonardo was born in Anchiano, near Vinci, Italy. He was an illegitimate child. His father Ser Piero da Vinci was a young lawyer and his mother, Caterina, was a peasant girl. It has been suggested that Caterina was a Middle Eastern slave owned by Piero, but the evidence is scant.



# Art

- Leonardo is well known for the masterful paintings attributed to him, such as Last Supper (Ultima Cena or Cenacolo, in Milan), painted in 1498, and the Mona Lisa (also known as La Gioconda, now at the Louvre in Paris), painted in 1503–1506. There is significant debate however, whether da Vinci himself painted the Mona Lisa, or whether it was primarily the work of his students. Only seventeen of his paintings, and none of his statues survive. Of these paintings, only Ginevra de' Benci is in the Western Hemisphere.





# List of paintings



Annunciation (1475-1480) Uffizi,  
Florence, Italy





- Ginevra de' Benci (~1475) National Gallery of Art, Washington DC, U.S.



The Benois Madonna  
(1478-1480) Hermitage  
Museum, St Petersburg, Russia





Madonna Litta (1490-91) The  
Hermitage, St. Petersburg, Russia



The Virgin and Child with St. Anne (~1510)  
Louvre, Paris, France





Bacchus (1515) Louvre, Paris, France



St. John the Baptist (~1514) Louvre, Paris, France



# Science and engineering

- Perhaps even more impressive than his artistic work are his studies in science and engineering, recorded in notebooks comprising some 13,000 pages of notes and drawings, which fuse art and science. He was left-handed and used mirror writing throughout his life. Explainable by fact that it is easier to pull a quill pen than to push it; by using mirror-writing, the left-handed writer is able to pull the pen from right to left.

