

50 Fun Facts about Leonardo da Vinci

- 1) The name Leonardo da Vinci translates to Leonard from the town of Vinci.
- 2) Leonardo was raised by his single father.
- 3) Leonardo was one of the first Italians to use oil paint .
- 4) He was left-handed
- 5) Leonardo da Vinci left many paintings unfinished and destroyed most of his work.
- 6) Two of his works, the Mona Lisa and The Last Supper, are the most famous, most reproduced and most parodied portrait and religious painting of all time.
- 7) Leonardo was a vegetarian who loved animals and despised war, yet he worked as a military engineer to invent advanced and deadly weapons.
- 8) Leonardo drew the plans for the first armored car in 1485!
- 9) He invented the bicycle 300 years before it appeared on the road.
- 10) Leonardo da Vinci created an inflatable tube so people could float in the water.
- 11) Leonardo had dyslexia, when he made notes on his inventions it was all written in reverse, which made it hard for others to dig through his notes and steal his ideas.
- 12) He dug into graveyards at night to steal corpses and study human anatomy and find out where the soul was.
- 13) Leonardo produced aerial maps for Cesare Borgia which are still accurate today.
- 14) Da Vinci is considered by many as the father of modern science.
- 15) He was one of the most acclaimed artists of the Renaissance.
- 16) Leonardo was the illegitimate child of Messer Piero Fruosino di Antonio da Vinci, a Florentine notary, and Caterina, a barmaid.
- 17) He sketched the first parachute, first helicopter, first aero plane, first tank, first repeating rifle, swinging bridge, paddleboat and the first motorcar.

- 18) Leonardo was very much interested in the possibility of human flight. He produced many studies of the flight of birds and made plans for several flying machines.
- 19) Da Vinci was considered a time traveler in that his inventions were ahead of his time.
- 20) He was also a sculptor, designer of costumes, mathematician and botanist.
- 21) Leonardo made maps of Europe.
- 22) He invented hydraulic pumps.
- 23) Da Vinci designed a movable bridge for the Duke of Milan.
- 24) Leonardo had a belief in magical forces that could unlock the universe's secrets to make dream come true.
- 25) The Mona Lisa is perhaps his most famous work. The subject of this portrait is still debated to this day, the most popular current view being that it is of Lisa Gherardini del Giocondo.
- 26) He had 17 half siblings. (brothers and sisters)
- 27) One of the most unusual hypotheses is that it is a self-portrait of Leonardo as a 2 woman.
- 28) It took da Vinci about ten years to paint Mona Lisa's lips.
- 29) Leonardo was famous for the way he used light in his portraits.
- 30) He painted The Last Supper at Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan; a dramatic depiction on The moment Jesus announced that he would be betrayed.
- 31) He established modern techniques of scientific illustration with highly accurate renderings such as 'Embryo in the Womb'. 32) Leonardo would wear pink to make his complexion look fresh.
- 34) Leonardo da Vinci never married or had children.
- 35) Bill Gates bought the Codex Leicester in 1995 for \$30 million. This manuscript, the only one not held in Europe, includes da Vinci's studies on hydraulics and the movement of water.
- 36) And Leonardo loved water: He developed plans for floating snowshoes, a breathing device for underwater exploration, a life preserver, and a diving bell that could attack ships from below. In case one had to.

37) Leonardo was the first to explain why the sky is blue. (It's because of the way air scatters light.)

38) And he figured out why the entire moon is dimly visible when it is a thin crescent. Its night side is lit by light reflected from Earth, which appears 50 times brighter from the moon than the full moon appears here.

39) An ambidextrous, paranoid dyslexic, Leonardo could draw forward with one hand while writing backward with the other, producing a mirror-image script that others found difficult to read—which was exactly the point.

40) The Louvre recently spent \$5.5 million rehangng the Mona Lisa inside a display case set into a wall, six feet behind a wooden barrier.

41) In August 2003, da Vinci's Madonna of the Yarnwinder, valued at \$65 million, was stolen from Drumlanrig Castle in Scotland by two men posing as tourists. They escaped in a Volkswagen Golf.

42) Leonardo designed an armored car, a scythed chariot, a pile driver, a revolving crane, a pulley, a lagoon dredge, and a flying ship.

43) In December 2000, skydiver Adrian Nicholas landed in South Africa using a parachute built from one of Leonardo's designs.

44) I wonder what happens if . . . After dissecting cadavers, Leonardo replaced the muscles with strings to see how they worked.

45) He crushed intelligent design before anyone even thought of it: His studies of river erosion convinced him that the Earth is much older than the Bible implies, and he argued that falling sea levels—not Noah's Flood—left marine fossils on mountains.

46) Leonardo could write with hand and draw with the other at the same time.

47) He designed contact lenses in 1508.

48) Da Vinci would buy caged animals at the market just to set them free.

49) He was a prankster and would put fake wigs and horns on lizards to scare people in the Vatican.

50) L_dV signed his initials on the right pupil of the Mona Lisa.