

# Leonardo da Vinci

## Unit Study



Thought to be a self-portrait.



### Subjects:

Reading, Art, Science, Following  
Directions, Geography



# Teacher Instructions

Thank you for downloading our Leonardo da Vinci Unit Study! It was created to use with a variety of biographies about da Vinci. Three recommendations are made in the [blog post](#) that accompanies this printable. Here is what is included in the study:

- Pages 3-9:** **A Biography of Leonardo da Vinci:** Notetaking sheets with answer key.
- Pages 10-13:** **Timeline of da Vinci's Life:** Students may write on timeline or cut and glue events provided.
- Page 14-15:** **Compare and Contrast Paintings of the Middle Ages with Realism of the Renaissance**
- Page 16:** **Italy Notebooking Page:** Research Italy. Links to a video and website included in the blog post below.
- Pages 17-18:** **Leonardo da Vinci Following Directions:** Practice following directions while learning the geography of Italy and about Leonardo da Vinci's life.
- Page 19:** **Artist Notebooking Page:** Use to study other Renaissance artists. Print one for each artist.

Also refer to our post, [Leonardo da Vinci FREE Unit Study](#), for:

1. Videos about Leonardo da Vinci.
2. Links to explore his work.
3. Resources about Italy.
4. Many hands-on art and engineering projects to make.

## Credits





# A Biography of Leonardo da Vinci

**Known For:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Parents:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Early Childhood:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Da Vinci was born during the Renaissance. What was significant about this period?** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Da Vinci's apprenticeship in Verrocchio's studio:**

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\_\_\_\_\_

**What important patron family helped support da Vinci's work?**

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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_



# A Biography of Leonardo da Vinci (cont.)

Paintings that Leonardo created:

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What are some challenges da Vinci had as a painter?

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What projects did da Vinci work on for Duke Sforza?

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What is a fresco? \_\_\_\_\_

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What fresco did Leonardo paint for the Duke?

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What did people think of the fresco?

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# A Biography of Leonardo da Vinci (cont.)

What was a problem with the fresco?

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Who came to live with Leonardo when he was in Milan?

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Why did Leonardo leave the Duke?

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What are some of the projects da Vinci worked on after he left the Duke? \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## A Biography of Leonardo da Vinci (cont.)

During his years of work, da Vinci filled up notebooks with his ideas. What were some of the ideas in his notebooks?

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What kind of writing was in the notebooks?

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Who were some other famous artists that worked in Italy at the same time as da Vinci? \_\_\_\_\_

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Where did Leonardo live the last few years of his life?

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When did he die and where is he buried?

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# A Biography of Leonardo da Vinci

## Answer Key

**Known For:** Variety of answers: polymath, genius, artist, engineer, sculptor, painter, architect, etc.

**Birth:** April 15, 1452 in Vinci, Italy. Some sources say Anchiano, which is located within Vinci.

**Parents:** Father-Ser Piero da Vinci, Mother-Caterina. They were not married and later married other people and started their own families.

**Early Childhood:** Variety of answers, including: He lived with relatives. He grew up on a farm. He explored the natural world.

**Da Vinci was born during the Renaissance. What was significant about this period?** Renaissance means 'rebirth'. It came after the Dark Ages and it was a time of great growth and progress in a variety of areas, including science, medicine, literature, and art.

**Apprenticeship in Verrocchio's studio:** When da Vinci was between 12 and 14, he went to be an apprentice in Florence. He learned to draw and paint. He also helped by making paintbrushes, paints and wood 'canvases' for the painters. He eventually painted parts of paintings that Verrocchio was creating.

**What important patron family helped support da Vinci's work?** The Medici family who were wealthy bankers and ruled over Florence. They used their money to encourage artists in Florence.

**Paintings that Leonardo created:**

*Mona Lisa*

*The Last Supper*

*His self-portrait*

*The Virgin of the Rocks*

*Head of a Woman*

*Lady with an Ermine*

*Salvator Mundi*

*Ginevra de'Benci*

*The Adoration of the Magi*

*Saint Jerome in the Wilderness*

*The Virgin and Child with Saint Anne*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_



# A Biography of Leonardo da Vinci

## Answer Key (cont.)

**What are some challenges da Vinci had as a painter?** He did not like to be told what to do by his patrons. He often did not finish his paintings. (It is even thought that he never finished the *Mona Lisa* as it was still in his possession when he died.)

**What projects did da Vinci work on for Duke Sforza?** Variety of answers, including: Built a huge stage set for a play, *The Feast of Paradise*. Built a series of canals and created designs for the streets of Milan. Worked on a giant statue of a horse. Painted the fresco, *The Last Supper*. Created a silver stringed instrument shaped like a horse's skull.

**What is a fresco?** A wall painting that is created on wet plaster. The word 'fresco' translates literally to 'fresh'.

**What fresco did Leonardo paint for the Duke?** *The Last Supper*

**What did people think of the fresco?**

People loved it and created many copies of it.

**What was a problem with the fresco?** The painting started to crack and peel less than 50 years after it was painted. Da Vinci didn't want to paint on wet plaster because he wanted to be able to go back and change things. So he varnished the wall and painted with tempura paints, which turned out to not hold up over time.

**Who came to live with Leonardo when he was in Milan?**

A poor ten-year old boy, Salai.

**Why did Leonardo leave the duke?**

The French attacked Milan and the duke lost his power and fled.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_





# A Biography of Leonardo da Vinci

## Answer Key (cont.)

**What are some of the projects da Vinci worked on after he left the Duke?** *Variety of answers, including: designed weapons and drew maps for another duke. Dissected bodies to learn more about anatomy. Made a robot and a mechanical lion. Painted the *Mona Lisa* and *St. John the Baptist*. Experimented with a solar reflector for boiling dyes.*

**During his years of work, da Vinci filled up notebooks with his ideas. What were some of the ideas in his notebooks?**

*Variety of answers, including: buildings, birds, flying machines, a parachute, water, water machines, experiments with water, gears, bicycle designs, Vitruvian Man, an underwater breathing device, a robot and more!*

**What kind of writing was in the notebooks?** *Mirror writing. His handwriting is reversed and can be read when held up to a mirror.*

**About how many notebooks were there?**

*There were probably 13,000 notebook pages, but only about half are known to exist now. They are combined into ten collections.*

**Who were some other famous artists that worked in Italy at the same time as da Vinci?** *Michelangelo and Raphael Sanzio, among others.*

**Where did Leonardo live the last few years of his life?** *He went to live in France on King Frances I's property in Amboise.*

**When did he die and where is he buried?** *He died May 2, 1519 and was buried in Amboise.*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Events for the Timeline

1452 Leonardo da Vinci is born in Italy.	Leonardo da Vinci is born in Italy.
1454 Peace of Lodi is signed.	Peace of Lodi is signed.
1468 Da Vinci becomes an apprentice in Verrocchio's studio.	Da Vinci becomes an apprentice in Verrocchio's studio.
1473 Da Vinci joins the painters' guild.	Da Vinci joins the painters' guild.
1476 Da Vinci paints the <i>Annunciation</i> with Verrocchio.	Da Vinci paints the <i>Annunciation</i> with Verrocchio.
1478 Da Vinci paints the <i>Portrait of Ginerva de'Benci</i> .	Da Vinci paints the <i>Portrait of Ginerva de'Benci</i> .
1482 Da Vinci goes to Milan to work as a military engineer.	Da Vinci goes to Milan to work as a military engineer.
1482 Da Vinci starts keeping his notebooks.	Da Vinci starts keeping his notebooks.
1490 Da Vinci starts work on his horse statue.	Da Vinci starts work on his horse statue.
1490 The <i>Feast of Paradise</i> is put on for a wedding.	The <i>Feast of Paradise</i> is put on for a wedding.
1493 Da Vinci paints <i>Young Girl with Ermine</i> .	Da Vinci paints <i>Young Girl with Ermine</i> .
1495 Da Vinci thought to have tried one of his flying machines.	Da Vinci thought to have tried one of his flying machines.
1498 Da Vinci finishes <i>The Last Supper</i> .	Da Vinci finishes <i>The Last Supper</i> .
1499 Da Vinci's horse statue is destroyed by French army.	Da Vinci's horse statue is destroyed by French army.
1500 Da Vinci leaves Milan.	Da Vinci leaves Milan.
1502 Da Vinci works for Cesare Borgia.	Da Vinci works for Cesare Borgia.
1503 Da Vinci returns to Florence.	Da Vinci returns to Florence.
1503 Da Vinci begins the <i>Mona Lisa</i> .	Da Vinci begins the <i>Mona Lisa</i> .

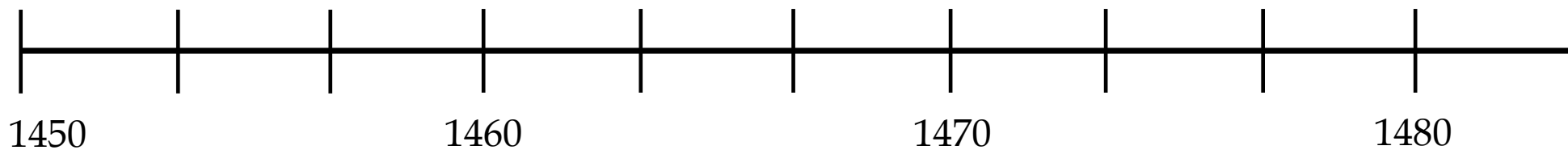
# Events for the Timeline (cont.)

<b>1506 Da Vinci returns to Milan.</b>	<b>Da Vinci returns to Milan.</b>
<b>1516 Da Vinci becomes a guest of the king of France.</b>	<b>Da Vinci becomes a guest of the king of France.</b>
<b>1519 Leonardo Da Vinci dies.</b>	<b>Leonardo Da Vinci dies.</b>



# Timeline of Leonardo da Vinci's Life

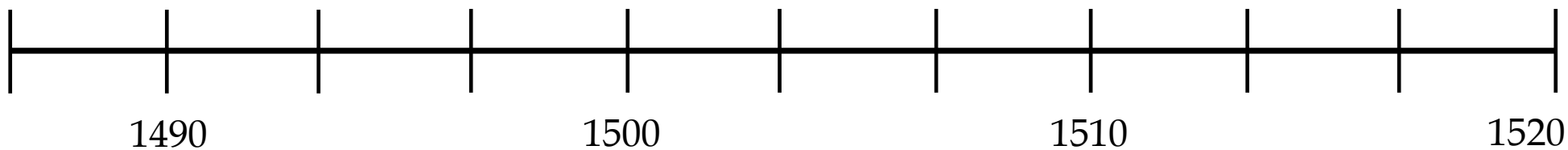
Cut out and glue the events where they go on the timeline and/or write in the events you want to include.





# Timeline of Leonardo da Vinci's Life

Cut out and glue the events where they go on the timeline and/or write in the events you want to include.

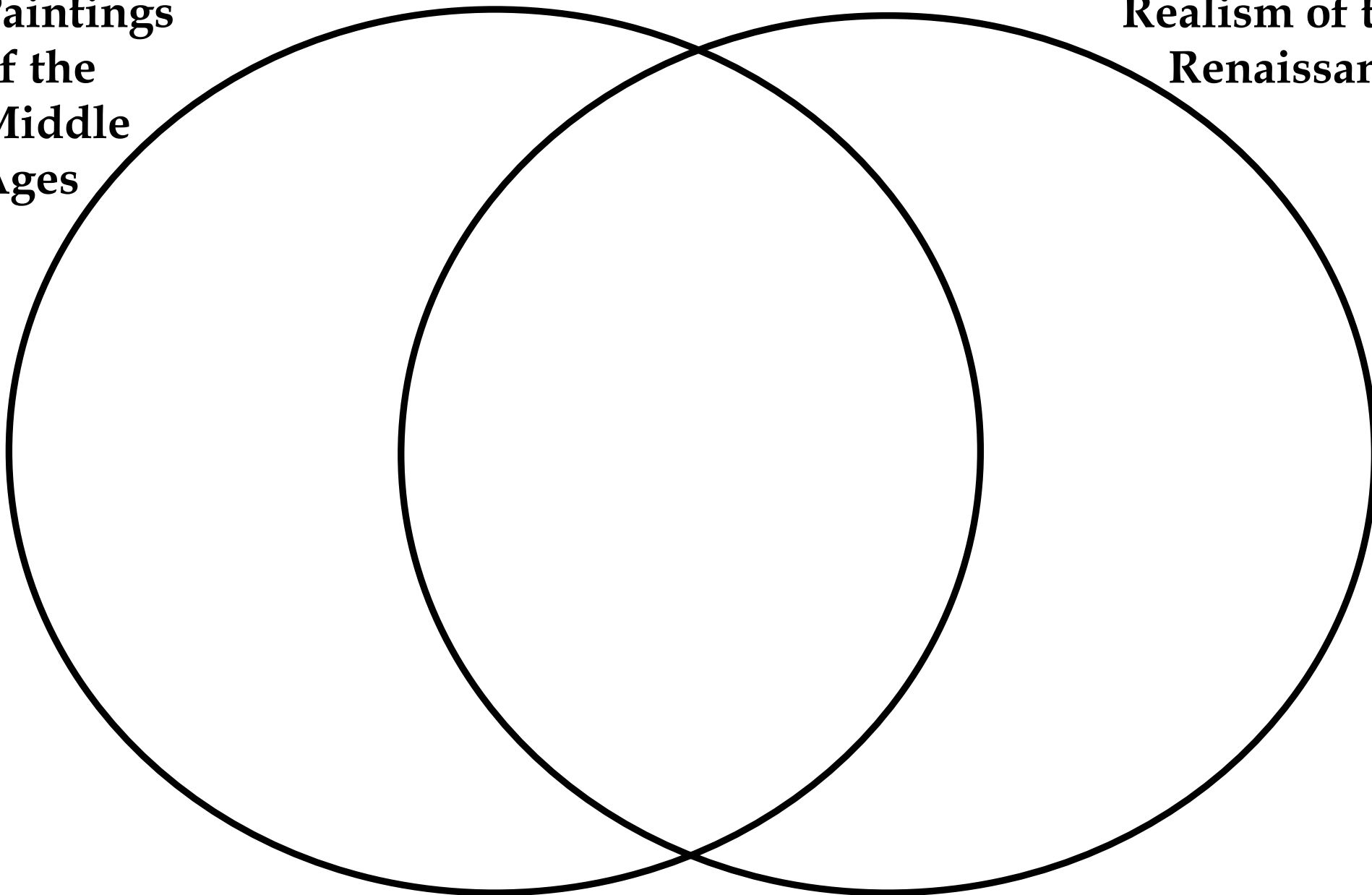




Compare the paintings of the Middle Ages with the Realism style of painting during the Renaissance. Write the similarities in the middle where the two circles overlap. Write the differences between the styles in the other parts of the circles. Feel free to include some of the painters of that style in your diagram.

**Paintings  
of the  
Middle  
Ages**

**Realism of the  
Renaissance**

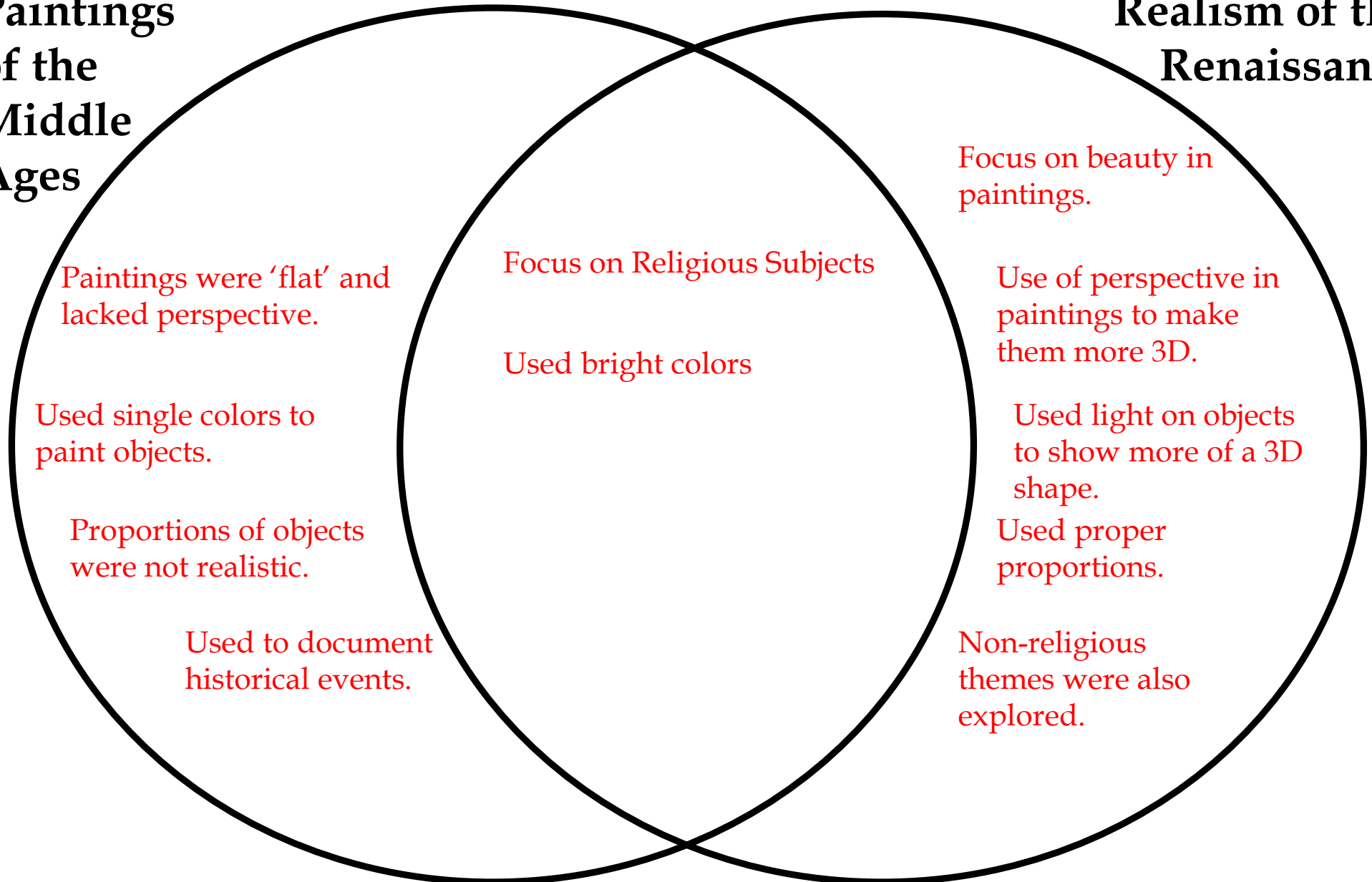




# Answer Key

## Paintings of the Middle Ages

## Realism of the Renaissance



# Italy



**Language Spoken:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Area:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Population:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Capital:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Currency:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Government:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dominant Religion:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Climate:**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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**Biomes/Terrain:**

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**History:**

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**Italian Foods:**

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**Other Notes:**

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# Leonardo da Vinci

## Following Directions Around Italy

1. Leonardo Da Vinci was born in Vinci, just west of Florence in 1452. Draw a baby's head to the west of Florence.
2. When Leonardo was 14 years old, he went to be an apprentice at Verrocchio's studio in Florence. Draw a paintbrush with a red handle below Florence.
3. When Leonardo was 30, he moved to Milan and around this time he started keeping his famous notebooks. Draw a notebook with a brown cover to the east of Milan.
4. One of the ideas in his notebooks was the Vitruvian Man, which was a perfectly proportioned man. Draw a simple man below your notebook.
5. Sometime after this move, he started his horse statue for the duke. Draw a brown horse to the west of Milan.
6. A few years later, he started his fresco, *The Last Supper*. Draw a table below Milan to represent *The Last Supper*.
7. It is around this time, that Da Vinci is thought to have tested one of his flying machines. Draw an airplane wing above Milan.
8. Da Vinci eventually moved back to Florence and at one point wrote a letter to the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire. In that letter, he detailed four engineering ideas he had. One was for a suspension bridge. Draw a bridge to the east of Italy.
9. In 1503, Da Vinci started the Mona Lisa, but it seems he never considered it finished. It is now displayed at the Louvre in Paris. Draw a lady's face with long dark hair to the west of Italy.
10. When Da Vinci was in his 60s, he was invited by the king of France to come live near the king in Amboise, France. He lived here the rest of his life. Along the western border at the top of Italy, draw a gray gravestone.

# Following Directions Around Italy With Leonardo da Vinci







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