

LEONARDO DA VINCI

Howdy readers! I'm looking at the drawings of one of history's greatest artists ...

NG KiDS' time-travelling mouse, Max, takes a look at the life of this incredible artist...

Born April 1452 in Vinci, Italy, Leonardo began apprenticing for the artist Verrocchio when he was 15. He learned many skills, such as painting, sculpture, carpentry, metal working and many more!



...the genius that was Leonardo Da Vinci!



I'm going to be a Jack of all trades.

And master of ALL!

After ten years, he was ready to set up his own workshop. Then, in 1482, he was commissioned to make a lyre (musical instrument) for the Duke of Milan. When he presented it, Leonardo couldn't help brag about all his other skills.



I can paint, draw sculpt, engineer, juggle! Everything!

What a lyre!

Leonardo's tactic worked and the Duke commissioned Leonardo to work on more projects, including a great mural of Jesus's Last Supper!



The painting was an instant success, but unfortunately Leonardo had experimented with the painting technique and it immediately began peeling off!

I find it very a-peeling!

Yet Leonardo's reputation as a genius soon spread and he began receiving lots more commissions!

In 1503, he painted possibly the world's most famous painting, The Mona Lisa. People are intrigued by the lady's smile and her identity. Some even say 'she' is a man dressed as a woman!



How rude!

Leonardo had a great thirst for knowledge. He studied science and nature, making endless notes illustrated with intricate drawings. He was obsessed with the workings of the human body and drew detailed images of organs and bones.



Look at these beautiful drawings!

Bleugh! No thanks!

Weak stomach

He was fascinated with flight and would study birds very intently.



If that bloke doesn't stop staring at me I'm going to poop on his head.

In his journals can be found designs for bicycles, parachutes, airplanes and helicopters about 500 years before they were actually created!



These ideas will never take off!

He also invented early military tanks and, before he died, he created a walking mechanical lion which displayed lilies!



ROAR!

ROAR!

It was a roaring success!

So, get your thinking caps on and see how much of a genius YOU are!



That had better be a good likeness!

Dh, stop moaning, Lisa!

Illustration and words: Gary Northfield.