

Name _____ Date _____



Leonardo Da Vinci

Read this article to learn about some of the amazing things created by Leonardo da Vinci. Use the word list to fill in the missing words.

Leonardo da Vinci was born in Italy over 500 years ago. He had many talents and ideas. He was a true _____.

Leonardo was an _____.

He drew a picture of a bicycle. At the time, that was a new idea. The first bicycle was built 300 years later. He also drew a picture of an airplane, another new idea. The first airplane was built 400 years later. Leonardo never ran out of ideas.

Leonardo was also a great painter. He painted the *Mona Lisa*.

The woman in the painting has a _____ look on her face. What is she thinking? Why is she smiling? As you walk in front of the painting, her eyes seem to follow you.

Leonardo _____ nature and asked questions.

Why do waves form in water? Why does the moon shine? He wrote his ideas in a notebook... backwards! Today, people use a _____ to read his notes!

Word List

genius
inventor
mirror
studied
puzzled

**Think
About It!**

What were some of Leonardo da Vinci's accomplishments?

About the Cloze Passages

- Each word list includes all of the word choices students need to complete the passage, helping them identify vocabulary that might otherwise be beyond their reach. The target words, like the passages, progress from easier to more challenging. These words have been chosen to build reading skills and stretch students’ vocabulary with words they are likely to encounter in other contexts.
- To determine the right word for each blank, students practice key reading comprehension skills, such as tapping prior knowledge of the topic and using context clues.
- At the end of each passage, a Think About It question gives students practice in building different reading comprehension skills, such as analyzing character, identifying details, summarizing, and making inferences.

Introducing the Cloze Passages

Model for students how to work with the cloze passages by having them follow these steps:

1. Read the title, introduction, and then the passage. Get a feel for what it’s about and why it was written. Don’t try to fill in any words yet.
2. Reread the entire passage. Think about the kind of word that might fit each blank. Look at the other words in the sentence for clues about the word that is missing.
3. Read through the word list. Look for the words that are closest in meaning to the words you’re already considering.
4. When you find a match, write it in the blank.
5. When you’ve completed the passage, read it through with your answers in place to make sure it makes sense.

Ways to Use the Cloze Passages

The cloze passage activities are flexible and easy to use in a variety of ways:

- **Small Group:** Distribute copies of the same passage to each member of a small group (4-5 students). Have students read and fill in the blanks. Then have them trade passages to check each other’s work. One student can read the completed passage aloud.
- **Individual Desk Work While Conferencing:** Distribute a passage to each student to work on while you conference with individual students about their cloze passages or about other academic subjects.
- **Homework:** Send copies of passages home for vocabulary reinforcement and reading practice, and for students reinforcement and reading practice, and for kids to complete with their families as a school-home connection.

Below is the Flesch-Kincaid reading level for this passage.

35	Leonardo da Vinci	RL 4.7
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Below is the reading comprehension skill targeted in the Think About It question for this passage.

Skill
Identify Details

Answers for Passage 35: genius, inventor, puzzled, studied, mirror