

Fourth Grade

Title: "Mona Lisa"

Artist: Leonardo Da Vinci

EALR'S: Arts

- 1.1.1- Understands art concepts and vocabulary, line, texture, color, value, shapes- geometric shapes (triangle, diamond, square....) and organic shapes, (curvy, natural look, flowing).
- 1.2-Understands art concepts and vocabulary, principals of organization. (Balance, proportion, movement.....).
- 1.3-Understands and applies art styles from various artists' cultures and times.
- 1.4- Applies audience skills in a variety of art settings and performances.
- 2.1- Applies a creative process in the arts.
- 2.3- Applies a responding process to an arts presentation.
- 3.1- Uses the arts to express and present ideas and feeling.
- 3.2- Uses the arts to communicate for a specific purpose.
- 3.3- Develops personal aesthetic criteria to communicate artistic choices.
- 4.2- Demonstrates and analyzes the connections between the arts and other content areas.
- 4.3- Understands how the arts impact lifelong choices.
- 4.4- Understand that the arts shape and reflect culture and history.

Text: "Mona Lisa" is one of the most famous paintings in the world. It has been reproduced more often than other paintings, and yet we rarely take the time to truly look at it. It is an excellent example of Italian portrait art from the Renaissance period. The stylized position of the model and the use of the landscape to create perspective in the background are very typical. Da Vinci, as was his habit, worked on the painting on off for four years. He used another model for the hands and torso, thus making a composite painting.

Questions:

1. Does anyone know the name of this famous painting?
2. What kinds of colors do you see? (Nearly a monochromatic color scheme moving from muted yellow to gold to dark browns). What is the color mood? (Subdued, quiet, etc).
3. What types of lines and color planes do you see? The repetition of horizontal lines, horizontal color planes, and her arm placement create a peaceful, quiet mood.
4. Why do you think this painting became so famous? This painting has been written about by art critics, poets, and authors, all of whom have been fascinated by the mysterious smile that appears on the sphinx-like face of the lady bathed in a glowing, otherworldly light.
5. How has the artist used lighting and shadow to add to the realism?
6. What technique has da Vinci used to create depth? (The window and the landscape behind her).