

Reading Builder



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Andrea Janzen • John Thomas



Reading Builder

Anne Taylor • John Thomas

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Reading Builder 3

Anne Taylor · John Thomas

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CONTENTS

Unit 1	Leonardo da Vinci	5
Unit 2	Join Now!	11
Unit 3	Human vs. Machine	17
Unit 4	Animal Defense	23
Unit 5	Jenny's Club Schedule	29
Unit 6	Athena	35
Unit 7	A Problem	41
Unit 8	From a Little Seed	47
Unit 9	Our Apologies	53
Unit 10	The Blue Sky	59
Unit 11	A Busy Semester	65
Unit 12	Games We Play	71
Unit 13	The Turtle and the Police	77
Unit 14	Just Follow the Instructions	83
Unit 15	The Jazz Player	89
Unit 16	The Kingdom of Bhutan	95
Unit 17	A Family of Words	101
Unit 18	Headline News	107
Unit 19	The Happiest Times	113
Unit 20	Caught!	119

Leonardo da Vinci

UNIT

1



Pre-reading

1. Do you like to paint?
2. What are the names of some famous painters?
3. Who painted the *Mona Lisa*?

Vocabulary Preview

Match the word or phrase with its meaning.

1. ____ She excels in every subject at school.
2. ____ That painting is his greatest achievement.
3. ____ Max's mom praised him when he got an A+.
4. ____ Chocolate was the specialty of the candy store.
5. ____ You need to be a genius to understand this book.
6. ____ Adam is so inventive. He could build anything.

- a. very smart person
- b. special product
- c. to say good things about
- d. creative
- e. does very well
- f. finished task

Leonardo da Vinci

Track 01



Leonardo da Vinci was born on April 15, 1452. He grew up in Italy, in a town called Vinci. Interestingly, his name means "Leonardo from Vinci." He was an amazing man of many talents. He was very smart. He has been described as a genius because he excelled at everything. Whatever he tried, he easily became a master of it. As a student, his teachers often praised him for his achievements.

He is best known for his paintings. Many people think da Vinci is one of the greatest painters who ever lived. His specialty was creating realistic paintings. Two of his works, *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper*, are still famous today. The *Mona Lisa* is kept in the Louvre Museum in Paris, France. Every day, thousands of visitors line up to see it.

However, the talents of da Vinci were not limited to painting. He was also talented in the sciences. Da Vinci was an architect and an engineer. He was incredibly curious and inventive. Surprisingly, he thought of many things which we still use. For example, in his notebooks, he wrote about items like the helicopter and the army tank. He also thought about solar power and the calculator. He foresaw these items in the 16th century. This was several hundred years before they were actually used. He truly was a genius.

Leonardo da Vinci died in France, on May 2, 1519. Today, only a few of his paintings and notebooks remain. They are masterpieces to treasure for all time. (252 words)

Word Practice

Choose the correct word or phrase.

- Jessie is always asking questions about everything. She is so _____.
a. smart b. curious c. amazing d. talented
- Our teacher _____ a shovel as a tool used for digging.
a. described b. liked c. praised d. came up with
- James was a very _____ writer. He created many interesting characters.
a. inventive b. curious c. limited d. mean
- Pamela got another A! She always _____ at school!
a. lines up b. excels c. writes d. creates

Reading Comprehension

Choose the best answer.

1. What is this story mainly about?
 - a. A flying machine
 - b. A genius with many talents
 - c. The world's best painter
 - d. A museum in France
2. What does “it” in line 11 refer to?
 - a. The Louvre Museum
 - b. Paris, France
 - c. The *Mona Lisa*
 - d. Da Vinci's inventions
3. Which talent is da Vinci most famous for?
 - a. Creating machines
 - b. Writing music
 - c. Designing buildings
 - d. Making realistic pictures
4. What was so surprising about da Vinci's inventions?
 - a. He thought of so many things.
 - b. Most were never used.
 - c. They were very realistic.
 - d. He thought of some modern things.



Focus On Same or Opposite.

Write S for same or O for opposite.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------|--------------------|--------|
| 1. _____ excel | do well | 2. _____ invent | create |
| 3. _____ genius | fool | 4. _____ thousands | many |

Words and Phrases

- be known for

That restaurant **is known for** its desserts.

- for example

For example, this city has Chinese, Italian, and Indian restaurants.

- a master of

I had to practice for many years to become **a master of** the piano.

Fill in the blank with the correct phrase. Change the form of the words if necessary.

1. May can speak German, Russian, and French. She is _____ languages.
2. I love big cities. _____, Tokyo, Rome, and Paris are fantastic!
3. George is _____ his sense of humor.

Summary

Fill in the blank with the correct word or phrase.

France

painters

inventing

talents

Mona Lisa

Leonardo da Vinci was a man of many **1** _____.
He is considered a genius and one of the world's
greatest **2** _____. Perhaps his most famous piece
is **3** _____. In addition to art, da Vinci is famous
for **4** _____ many things. Several of his inventions
are used today. He died in **5** _____ in 1519.



Listening A Real Genius

Listen to the dialog and take notes.

Track 02

Who does Jane think is a genius?

Why does Jane think he is a genius?

What has he done?

What is his greatest achievement?

Listen again and check your notes.

Track 03

Use your notes to fill in the blanks.

Story Summary

Jane thinks _____ is a genius. He has many different _____. He got an _____ in every _____ when he was a student. He can also speak _____ languages. His greatest achievement is making a new door for their _____. It opens if you _____ to it.

My Story Notes

Do you know about a genius? Write some notes about him or her.

Who do you think is a genius?

Why do you think he or she is a genius?

What has he or she done?

What is his or her greatest achievement?

Using your notes, write your story in complete sentences.

Writing

Speaking

Look at the dialog. Fill in the blank with the correct choice.

- a. I had a special talent
- b. anyone really smart
- c. What is he known for?
- d. many little kids learn to play music



- A** Do you know 1 _____?
- B** Well, I read about Mozart on the Internet. They say he was a genius.
- A** Really? 2 _____
- B** He could play the piano when he was only three years old.
- A** But 3 _____.
- B** Yes, but Mozart also wrote music when he was only five years old.
- A** Now, that is amazing. I wish 4 _____.

Now practice with a partner. Make your own answers.

Vocabulary Review

Choose the correct word or phrase.

1. Lucy has a lot of great ideas. She is very _____.
a. careful b. inventive c. stubborn d. scary
2. The police _____ the car that was stolen. It was mine!
a. called b. compared c. described d. wrote about
3. My grandma's _____ is blueberry muffins.
a. met b. thought about c. specialty d. fit in
4. The teacher _____ her for getting such good grades.
a. praised b. disappointed c. introduced d. caused

Join Now!

UNIT

2



Pre-reading

1. What types of clubs are in your school?
2. What do you have to do to join?
3. Have you ever joined a club?

Vocabulary Preview

Match the word or phrase with its meaning.

1. ____ John always has the latest games.
2. ____ Membership at the club cost \$100 for one year.
3. ____ The school has a variety of after-school activities.
4. ____ All students can enjoy unlimited access to books in the library.
5. ____ The school will provide books for the students to use in class.
6. ____ Sharon can download programs on her computer.

- a. transfer from a server to another computer
- b. becoming a member
- c. many types
- d. give
- e. as much as you want
- f. newest