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## **Level 4**

# **Scientists search for real Mona Lisa**

**14th August, 2013**

[http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1308/130814-mona\\_lisa-4.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1308/130814-mona_lisa-4.html)

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**Please try the harder Level 5 and the 26-page Level 6.**

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# THE READING

From [http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1308/130814-mona\\_lisa-4.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1308/130814-mona_lisa-4.html)

Scientists are close to finding the remains of the model for the Mona Lisa in an old tomb in Florence, Italy. They believe the skeleton of Lisa Gioconda, the wife of a 16th-century merchant, is there. Silvano Vinceti, head of an Italian cultural heritage group, plans to test the DNA of the bones to find out if she is the woman behind that famous smile. Mr Vinceti will then use a computer graphics program to make a face from the skull and compare it to the painting.

Leonardo da Vinci's painting has fascinated art experts and ordinary people. Vinceti said that for centuries, historians have had many theories about the mysterious woman. He asks whether Gioconda was the model for the Mona Lisa or was it another model, or just the painter's fantasy. A geologist said the research team is lucky because there are many bones all placed in order. They also have a nameplate saying they belong to the Gioconda family.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-23644448>  
[http://www.euronews.com/2013/08/09/archaeologists-unearth-suspected-family-tomb-of-mona-lisa/](http://www.euronews.com/2013/08/09/archaeologists-uneearth-suspected-family-tomb-of-mona-lisa/)  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mona\\_Lisa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mona_Lisa)

# MATCHING

From [http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1308/130814-mona\\_lisa-4.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1308/130814-mona_lisa-4.html)

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                   |                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. close to finding               | a. graphics program           |
| 2. head of an Italian cultural    | b. bones to find out          |
| 3. test the DNA of the            | c. the remains                |
| 4. the woman behind               | d. compare it to the painting |
| 5. use a computer                 | e. that famous smile          |
| 6. make a face from the skull and | f. heritage group             |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                     |                            |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. fascinated art experts and       | a. model for the Mona Lisa |
| 2. historians have had many         | b. to the Gioconda family  |
| 3. He asks whether Gioconda was the | c. fantasy                 |
| 4. just the painter's               | d. ordinary people         |
| 5. there are many bones all         | e. theories                |
| 6. they belong                      | f. placed in order         |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From [http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1308/130814-mona\\_lisa-4.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1308/130814-mona_lisa-4.html)

Scientists are close to (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of the model for the Mona Lisa in an old tomb in Florence, Italy. They (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Lisa Gioconda, the wife of a 16th-century merchant, is there. Silvano Vinceti, head of an Italian (3) \_\_\_\_\_, plans to test the DNA of the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ is the woman (5) \_\_\_\_\_. Mr Vinceti will then use a computer graphics program to make a face from the skull (6) \_\_\_\_\_ painting.

Leonardo da Vinci's painting (7) \_\_\_\_\_ experts and ordinary people. Vinceti said that for centuries, historians (8) \_\_\_\_\_ about the mysterious woman. He asks whether Gioconda was the model for the Mona Lisa (9) \_\_\_\_\_ model, or just the painter's fantasy. A (10) \_\_\_\_\_ research team is lucky because there are many bones (11) \_\_\_\_\_. They also have a nameplate (12) \_\_\_\_\_ the Gioconda family.

# THE MONA LISA SURVEY

From [http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1308/130814-mona\\_lisa-4.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1308/130814-mona_lisa-4.html)

Write five GOOD questions about the Mona Lisa in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

# FREE WRITING

From [http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1308/130814-mona\\_lisa-4.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1308/130814-mona_lisa-4.html)

Write about **the Mona Lisa** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

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