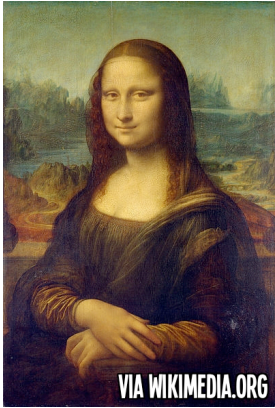


Scientists search for real Mona Lisa

14th August, 2013



Scientists say they are close to finding the remains of the woman who modelled for Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece the Mona Lisa. Researchers have opened a centuries-old tomb in the Italian city of Florence. They believe they will find the skeleton of da Vinci's muse Lisa Gioconda, the wife of a 16th-century silk merchant. Silvano Vinceti, head of

Italy's National Committee for the Promotion of Historic and Cultural Heritage, plans to test the DNA of the bones under the church to determine whether or not Ms Gioconda is the woman behind that famous, enigmatic smile. Mr Vinceti will then use a computer graphics program to generate a face from the skull and compare it to the painting.

Leonardo da Vinci's painting has been a constant source of fascination for art experts and ordinary folk alike. Vinceti said: "For centuries, historians the world over have been coming up with various theories about who this enigmatic, mysterious woman could have been." He asks: "Was Gioconda the model for the Mona Lisa? Or was it some other model, as some people say? Or is it just a construction of the painter's fantasy?" Antonio Moretti, a geologist from L'Aquila University told the euronews.com website: "We were very lucky I'd say, because not only is there a good amount of bone remains, but they are also disposed of in order at the bottom of the crypt, with a plate indicating they belong to the Gioconda family."

Sources: BBC / EuroNews.com / Wikipedia

Writing

The Mona Lisa is the greatest painting ever.
Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

scientists / remains / masterpiece / skeleton / heritage / DNA / enigmatic smile / fascination / art experts / historians / theories / fantasy / geologist / lucky /

True / False

- Scientists are looking for a modern-day Mona Lisa. T / F
- Researchers think the real Mona Lisa was Leonardo da Vinci's wife. T / F
- Scientists will analyse the bones of a body found in Florence. T / F
- Computer graphics will create a new Mona Lisa painting. T / F
- The Mona Lisa has ordinary people as well as specialists in art. T / F
- Historians have created theories about the Mona Lisa for centuries. T / F
- Silvano Vinceti believes the Mona Lisa came from da Vinci's fantasies. T / F
- The bones researchers are looking at had family nameplates. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. remains | a. thinking of |
| 2. merchant | b. mysterious |
| 3. determine | c. interest |
| 4. enigmatic | d. thrown away |
| 5. generate | e. bones |
| 6. fascination | f. people |
| 7. folk | g. create |
| 8. coming up with | h. trader |
| 9. disposed of | i. showing |
| 10. indicating | j. find out |

Discussion – Student A

- What springs to mind when you hear the word 'artist'?
- What do you think of the Mona Lisa?
- Why is it important to know who the model was?
- Why do so many people like the Mona Lisa?
- Why are some people good at art and others aren't?
- Why is art important?
- What kind of art do you like?
- Will a computer-generated face change anything about the Mona Lisa?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. they are close to finding the remains | a. old tomb |
| 2. Researchers have opened a centuries- | b. painter's fantasy |
| 3. da Vinci's | c. of the woman |
| 4. the woman behind that | d. of fascination |
| 5. generate a face from the skull and compare | e. ordinary folk alike |
| 6. a constant source | f. muse |
| 7. art experts and | g. it to the painting |
| 8. coming up | h. the bottom of the crypt |
| 9. a construction of the | i. famous, enigmatic smile |
| 10. disposed of in order at | j. with various theories |

Discussion – Student B

- How important is art to you?
- What do you think of the Mona Lisa's smile?
- What's your favourite painting (and why)?
- Which is better, modern art or art from hundreds of years ago?
- Would you like to be working in the research team?
- What do you know about Leonardo da Vinci?
- Is it sad if the mystery surrounding the Mona Lisa disappears?
- What questions would you like to ask the head researcher?

Spelling

- finding the mraeism of the woman
- opened a centuries-old btom
- the skeleton of da Vinci's uesm
- a 16th-century silk nrctmahe
- historic and cultural retegiah
- gimineact smile
- a constant crseou of fascination
- coming up with various esohreti
- the painter's ataysnf
- a ggiosetlo from L'Aquila University
- eosdidps of in order
- at the bottom of the ptyrc

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. j	4. b	5. g
6. c	7. f	8. a	9. d	10. i

Role Play

Role A – Painting

You think painting is the most important art form. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their art forms. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): ballet, animation or culinary art.

Role B – Ballet

You think ballet is the most important art form. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their art forms. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): painting, animation or culinary art.

Role C – Animation

You think animation is the most important art form. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their art forms. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): ballet, painting or culinary art.

Role D – Culinary art

You think culinary art is the most important art form. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their art forms. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): ballet, animation or painting.

Speaking

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| • painting | • literature |
| • opera | • photography |
| • architecture | • animation |
| • ballet | • culinary art |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.