ANDREW JENNINGS
COMPREHENSION NINJA

MASTERING COMPREHENSION: Photocopiable Activities to Improve Reading
FOR AGES 10–11
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ANSWERS 176
Over the last several centuries, Europe has produced some talented artists whose works are still celebrated around the world today. Three of the most influential European artists ever to have lived are da Vinci, Rembrandt and Picasso – and each of them is also an icon of an artistic movement.

Leonardo da Vinci
Da Vinci is responsible for arguably the most famous piece of art in the world. His Mona Lisa takes pride of place in the Louvre museum in Paris, France – but this striking piece of art is not his only memorable work.

Da Vinci was born in 1452, near to the Tuscan town of Vinci, in Italy (the name ‘da Vinci’ simply translates to ‘of Vinci’). He is renowned for his work as a painter and sculptor, but also as an architect, mathematician, musician, engineer and scientist. The breadth of his talents makes him representative of Renaissance humanism, a movement in Europe in the 15th and 16th centuries. The ideal of humanism was to take education out of dry scholarship and into contexts that involved and benefitted real people. It used a wide range of mediums such as da Vinci’s, alongside poetry and philosophy, to drive the spiritual and social progress of humankind.

Da Vinci kept extensive notebooks containing details of his work and inventions, many of which were never physically made during his lifetime. Among them were designs for helicopters, tanks and bridges. Since his death, some of his designs have been created in his memory, including his flying machine, and can be found in the French city of Amboise, where da Vinci lived in the final years of his life.

Rembrandt van Rijn
Rembrandt lived during the 1600s in Leiden, in the Dutch Republic (an area now known as the Netherlands). He learned to paint in its capital, Amsterdam.

Rembrandt is most famous for paintings of key moments in history and from myths and religious stories – but with his subjects caught slightly off guard, in a moment of expression or action. These also often contain clues about their stories, for example open letters causing a reaction, or knowing looks between characters. They’re often unflattering, making it clear that his subjects – no matter how powerful or holy they were – were human, and flawed. As a body of work, they’re recognisable largely due to the way Rembrandt painted light: his figures seem to glow out from a dark, often mysterious background.

The same is true of his many portraits. These are remarkable due to their honesty: they capture his subjects (including Rembrandt himself, in his self-portraits) as they really are, without flattering revisions. They seem intimate, and as though they create biographical stories – very like those in his historical paintings.

Rembrandt never left his home country, and is the epitome of the ‘Dutch Masters’, painters that flourished in the Dutch Republic after a long period of war. They’re characterised by many of the traits he exhibited perfectly: an engagement with their subjects’ inner lives, and a lack of idealisation about their appearances.

Pablo Picasso
Picasso was the pioneer of Cubism, an art movement that is considered to be the most influential of the 20th century.

He was born in Malaga, Spain, in 1881. He was an experimental artist even when he was young. His father was a painter and art teacher, and Picasso attended art schools in Spain. However, he soon became bored with their traditional teachings.

In 1904, Picasso moved to Paris, France, aged 23. The city’s varied artistic atmosphere prompted Picasso to experiment constantly with his style. He focused on colour during what art historians call his ‘blue period’ and ‘rose period’. Then he developed ‘primitivism’, in which he used the simple curves and lines of stylised tribal art as inspiration. This adapted and shaped itself into Cubism, for which Picasso is most famous. His style swept Paris, and then France, and then the whole of Europe.

Cubist artists study and then disassemble their subjects, before reassembling fragments into a portrait. This means that, rather than using a realistic single viewpoint, they show the subject from many angles, and also at many times, presenting it in a greater context. Cubism, and the several branches of style that resulted from it, form their perspectives by exaggerating geometric forms, such as the curve of a forehead, to examine both the shapes and the inner life of their subjects.

Like da Vinci and humanism, and Rembrandt and the Dutch Masters, Picasso and his Cubism were pursuing understanding of humans – what they really are, and what they could be.
Read the sentences and choose the correct word or words to fill the gap.

Over the last several centuries, Europe has produced some __________________________ artists whose works are still celebrated around the world today.

Rembrandt lived during the 1600s in Leiden, in the Dutch Republic (an area now known as the __________________________).

He focused on colour during what __________________________ call his ‘blue period’ and ‘rose period’.

Da Vinci was born in __________________________, near to the Tuscan town of Vinci, in Italy (the name ‘da Vinci’ simply translates to ‘of Vinci’).

Da Vinci kept extensive notebooks containing details of his work and __________________________, many of which were never physically made during his lifetime.

Among them were designs for __________________________, tanks and bridges.

Picasso was the pioneer of Cubism, an art movement that is considered to be the most influential of the __________________________.

They’re __________________________ many of the traits he exhibited perfectly: an engagement with their subjects’ inner lives, and a lack of idealisation about their appearances.

These also often contain clues about their stories, for example __________________________ causing a reaction, or knowing looks between characters.

Like da Vinci and __________________________, and Rembrandt and the Dutch Masters, Picasso and his Cubism were pursuing understanding of humans – what they really are, and what they could be.

Rembrandt is most famous for paintings of __________________________ in history and from myths and religious stories – but with his subjects caught slightly off guard, in a moment of expression or action.

He learned to paint in its capital, __________________________.

His style swept __________________________, and then France, and then the whole of Europe.

Cubist artists study and then __________________________ their subjects, before reassembling fragments into a portrait.

He was an __________________________ artist even when he was young.

---

Draw a line with a ruler to match the information.

Leonardo da Vinci
- moved to Paris aged 23
- known for Cubism
- born in 1452
- learned to paint in Amsterdam
- created in memory of da Vinci
- 15th and 16th century movement in Europe
- engineer, painter and sculptor
- flying machine
- Netherlands
- Renaissance humanism
- painted Mona Lisa
- Malaga
- Tuscany
- benefit real people with education
- Rembrandt
- Picasso
- da Vinci
- Rembrandt van Rijn lived in
- Rembrandt known as a ‘Dutch Master’
- had a ‘blue period’ and a ‘rose period’
- kept extensive notebooks
- never left his home country
- sometimes painted unflattering portraits
- ideal of humanism
- experimented constantly with his style
- painted Mona Lisa
- sometimes painted unflattering portraits
- ideal of humanism
- benefited real people with education
- ‘blue period’
- ‘rose period’
- ‘Dutch Master’
Label the description with the correct artist.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>father was a painter</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>born in 1881</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kept extensive notebooks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>created the most famous work found in the Louvre museum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>best recognised for Cubism work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lived during the 1600s</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Label the description with the correct artist.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>paintings told biographical stories</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>created designs for helicopters, weapons and bridges</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>moved to Paris aged 23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>surname means ‘of Vinci’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>born in Malaga, Spain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the epitome of the ‘Dutch Masters’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Label the location with the correct artist.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leiden, in the Dutch Republic</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amboise, France</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuscany, Italy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paris, France</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaga, Spain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amsterdam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Read the sentences. Put a tick in the correct box to show which sentences are true and which are false.

- Da Vinci was born in France. [True/False]
- Da Vinci created designs for rockets, aeroplanes and guns. [True/False]
- The Mona Lisa sits in the Louvre Museum, Paris. [True/False]
- Da Vinci had many interests beyond painting. [True/False]
- Amboise is where Da Vinci spent the final years of his life. [True/False]
- Picasso liked to experiment with different styles and techniques. [True/False]
- Picasso’s wartime paintings are what he is best recognised for. [True/False]
- Picasso moved to Paris, France, in 1881. [True/False]
- Picasso’s mother was a painter and a teacher. [True/False]
- Picasso was born in Malaga, Spain. [True/False]
- Rembrandt lived during the 1800s. [True/False]
- Rembrandt never painted any self-portraits. [True/False]
- The Dutch Republic endured a long period of war. [True/False]
- Rembrandt painted key moments in history. [True/False]
- Rembrandt developed ‘primitivism.’ [True/False]
Circle the correct answer for each of the following questions.

When was Pablo Picasso born?

- 1891
- 1881
- 1871
- 1889

Where did Rembrandt learn to paint?

- Amsterdam
- Leiden
- Malaga
- Paris

Which of the following was considered one of the 'Dutch Masters'?

- Rembrandt van Rijn
- Leonardo Da Vinci
- Pablo Picasso
- all three

Which of the following did da Vinci design?

- weapons
- mobile phones
- cars
- helicopters

Which art style is Picasso best known for?

- watercolours
- Cubism
- sculpture
- surrealism

Which colours was Picasso fond of using?

- blue and rose
- red and green
- rose and black
- yellow and blue

In which building is the Mona Lisa usually housed?

- Louvre Museum
- Eiffel Tower
- French Museum
- London’s Gallery

Which of the following was a Renaissance humanist?

- Rembrandt van Rijn
- Leonardo Da Vinci
- Pablo Picasso
- all three

Which of the following painted figures that seem to glow out from a mysterious background?

- Rembrandt van Rijn
- Leonardo Da Vinci
- Pablo Picasso
- all three

Where could you see some of da Vinci’s designs?

- Malaga, Spain
- Paris, France
- Amboise, France
- the Netherlands

Look at Artists' gallery. Number the statements from 1 to 5 to show the order they occur in the text. Look at the first line of each paragraph to help you.

Over the last several centuries, Europe has produced some talented artists whose works are still celebrated around the world today.

Picasso was the pioneer of Cubism, an art movement that is considered to be the most influential of the 20th century.

Da Vinci was born in 1452, near to the Tuscan town of Vinci, in Italy (the name ‘da Vinci’ simply translates to ‘of Vinci’).

The same is true of his many portraits.

He was born in Malaga, Spain, in 1881.

Look at the ‘Leonardo da Vinci’ section in Artists' gallery. Number the statements from 1 to 5 to show the order they occur in the text.

He is renowned for his work as a painter and sculptor, but also as an architect, mathematician, musician, engineer and scientist.

The ideal of humanism was to take education out of dry scholarship and into contexts that involved and benefitted real people.

Da Vinci kept extensive notebooks containing details of his work and inventions, many of which were never physically made during his lifetime.

Since his death, some of his designs have been created in his memory, including his flying machine, and can be found in the French city of Amboise, where da Vinci lived in the final years of his life.

His Mona Lisa takes pride of place in the Louvre museum in Paris, France – but this striking piece of art is not his only memorable work.

Look at Artists’ gallery. Number the statements from 1 to 4 to show the order they occur in the text.

However, he soon became bored with their traditional teachings.

Rembrandt is most famous for paintings of key moments in history and from myths and religious stories – but with his subjects caught slightly off guard, in a moment of expression or action.

It used a wide range of mediums such as da Vinci’s, alongside poetry and philosophy, to drive the spiritual and social progress of humankind.

Cubist artists study and then disassemble their subjects, before reassembling fragments into a portrait.
These questions are about Artists' gallery.

Look at the first paragraph. Find and copy a word that suggests that each of the three artists is a well-known figurehead of their artistic movements.

__________________________

Look at the 'Leonardo da Vinci' section. Find and copy a word that suggests that da Vinci kept many notebooks.

__________________________

Look at the 'Rembrandt van Rijn' section. Find and copy a word that suggests that some of his paintings made people seem unattractive.

__________________________

Look at the 'Pablo Picasso' section. Find and copy a word that suggests he had become disinterested in the art schools in Spain.

__________________________

Look at the 'Rembrandt van Rijn' section. Find and copy a word that suggests that some of his paintings showed a personal or sensitive side to their subjects.

__________________________

Look at the 'Pablo Picasso' section. Find and copy a word that suggests Picasso liked to do things differently and look for new ideas.

__________________________

Look at the 'Pablo Picasso' section. Find and copy a word that suggests that Cubism takes a feature of a face and makes it bigger than it really is.

__________________________

Look at the 'Leonardo da Vinci' section. Find and copy a word that suggests that da Vinci is well known for his painting.

__________________________

Read the paragraphs below and then follow the instructions.

Leonardo da Vinci

Da Vinci is responsible for arguably the most famous piece of art in the world. His Mona Lisa takes pride of place in the Louvre museum in Paris, France – but this striking piece of art is not his only memorable work.

Da Vinci was born in 1452, near to the Tuscan town of Vinci, in Italy (the name ‘da Vinci’ simply translates to ‘of Vinci’). He is renowned for his work as a painter and sculptor, but also as an architect, mathematician, musician, engineer and scientist.

The breadth of his talents makes him representative of Renaissance humanism, a movement in Europe in the 15th and 16th centuries. The ideal of humanism was to take education out of dry scholarship and into contexts that involved and benefitted real people. It used a wide range of mediums such as da Vinci’s, alongside poetry and philosophy, to drive the spiritual and social progress of humankind.

Underline or highlight a word that means well known by many people.

Underline or highlight a word that means extremely good-looking.

Underline or highlight a word that means a person who designs and builds machines and structures.

Underline or highlight a word that means all human beings.

Underline or highlight a word that means to put a word into another language.

Underline or highlight a phrase that means to put something in the best spot or to showcase it.
FIND AND COPY
1. bional
2. answer
3. attended
4. devoted
5. reform
6. succeeded
7. life-changing
8. problematic
9. Underline or highlight
10. arguably
11. reviewed
12. blocked
13. international
14. cooperation
15. inspirational

8. DNA
FILL IN THE GAP
1. life
2. cancers
3. chromosomes
4. before
5. share
6. characteristics
7. parents

MATCHING
1. 1953 DNA structure discovered
2. Rosalind Franklin
3. 1869 DNA first identified
4. Coelophysis
5. dinosaurs
6. Triceratops
7. Tyrannosaurus Rex

TRUE OR FALSE
1. True
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. True

MULTIPLE CHOICE
1. x-ray data
2. both parents
3. DNA
4. 23
5. 1962

SEQUENCING
1. A T C G
2. Brachiosaurus
3. Diplodocus
4. Triceratops
5. Stegosaurus

9. DINOSAURS
FILL IN THE GAP
1. fascinated
2. Stegosaurus
3. Brachiosaurus
4. Diplodocus
5. Stegosaurus
6. Brachiosaurus
7. Stegosaurus
8. Stegosaurus

TRUE OR FALSE
1. True
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. True

MULTIPLE CHOICE
1. Triceratops
2. 60
3. 3
4. small
5. 3 metres

SEQUENCING
1. 1
2. 2
3. 4
4. 3

MATCHING
1. Tyrannosaurus Rex
2. Stegosaurus
3. Brachiosaurus
4. Diplodocus
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MULTIPLE CHOICE
1. Triceratops
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4. small
5. 3 metres

SEQUENCING
1. 1
2. 2
3. 4
4. 3

11. CRIME, PUNISHMENT AND TORTURE
FILL IN THE GAP
1. Wergeld
2. 1869
3. 10.
4. 10.
5. 10.

MULTIPLE CHOICE
1. Wergeld
2. 1869
3. 10.
4. 10.
5. 10.

TRUE OR FALSE
1. True
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. False

MULTIPLE CHOICE
1. Rembrandt van Rijn
2. 1609
3. 1621
4. 1639
5. 1641

TRUE OR FALSE
1. False
2. True
3. False
4. False
5. True

MULTIPLE CHOICE
1. Leonardo da Vinci
2. 1452
3. 1480
4. 1490
5. 1493

TRUE OR FALSE
1. True
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4. False
5. True

MULTIPLE CHOICE
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