Leonardo da Vinci

Synopsis

Today's Walking Classroom focuses on Leonardo da Vinci, a famous Italian inventor and artist who lived during the Renaissance. Da Vinci is well known for paintings like the Mona Lisa and the Last Supper, although he also spent much of his time on other types of creations and inventions. His many interests went beyond painting and included anatomy, architecture, and engineering.

Objectives

Students will:

- identify da Vinci's best known masterpieces and inventions.

- describe the qualities that made da Vinci's work style so memorable and influential.

- understand how da Vinci's many accomplishments contributed to the Renaissance era.

Procedure

If you want to compare student comprehension before and after listening, administer the Comprehension Quiz before doing anything related to the podcast. Retest after walking.

1. Review key vocabulary. (Included definitions are limited to the context of today's podcast.)

    - **renaissance (noun):** Period of rebirth and renewal, especially in art and culture
      *He was a true **Renaissance** man – always learning about all sorts of new topics.*

    - **apprentice (noun):** Someone who works as assistant to learn from an experienced master
      *My medical training allowed me to serve as an **apprentice** to established doctors.*

    - **innate (adj):** Natural, present at birth
      *He had an **innate** talent for playing the violin.*

2. Build background by asking students, "Have you ever heard someone get called a Renaissance man or woman? What do you think that means?"

3. (allow time for discussion)

4. Podcast preview: "Today we're going to learn more about the original Renaissance man: an artist, inventor, and scientist named Leonardo da Vinci. Ready? Let's go!"

    - ✓ Walk!

Questions for Thought and Discussion

Upon return to the classroom, discuss the main ideas and content from the podcast using the questions and suggested answers below.

1. **What were some of the big ideas of this podcast?**

    - ✓ *Leonardo da Vinci became one of the stars of the Italian Renaissance after he began studying art in Florence in the 1400's.*

    - ✓ *His many interests went beyond painting to include anatomy, architecture, and engineering – but they all helped him to represent the human form in different ways.*

    - ✓ *Da Vinci is well known for paintings like the Mona Lisa and the Last Supper – although he also spent much of his time on other types of creations and inventions.*

2. **Da Vinci is most well known as a painter, even though he only completed a handful of major works and had many other hobbies.**

    a. **Why do you think that da Vinci is mostly known as a painter?**

      - ✓ *Da Vinci didn't just create works of art, but also techniques that could be used by other artists. There is also some mystery surrounding him and his painting, the Mona Lisa.*

    b. **Why would a painter also be interested in things like science or architecture?**

      - ✓ *Knowing science and architecture can help artists create a more accurate representation of the things they are painting. Da Vinci studied the human anatomy so that his paintings of humans were accurate and realistic.*

3. **Many of da Vinci's achievements were the result of observations of nature and then applying what he learned. Sitting, observing, and studying nature takes a great deal of time.**

    a. **What are some characteristics that da Vinci might have possessed that made him a good observer?**

      - ✓ *Suggestions: Patience, attention to detail, focus, etc.*

    b. **When were some times you have had to be patient? Was it hard for you?**

      - ✓ *Allow students to share.*

Leonardo da Vinci Comprehension Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. The Italian Renaissance was:

    a. a period of stagnation   b. a period of growth in art   c. an area near Florence

2. Leonardo da Vinci…

    a. produced thousands of completed paintings.
    b. made sketches and models of a flying machine 500 years before one was invented.
    c. copied the well-established 'sfumato' technique.

3. What did da Vinci accomplish during his 17 years in Milan?

    a. He helped Milan conquer Florence and become the capital of Italy.
    b. He helped Michelangelo paint the Last Supper.
    c. He pursued a variety of interests and gained support from local nobility.

4. DaVinci is credited with

    a. developing a style of painting that used shading and shadowing to create more depth.
    b. contributing to Spain's cultural growth in the 1400 and 1500's.
    c. training himself and others to be right-handed instead of left-handed.

5. What would be the best way to describe da Vinci's work during his apprentice years?

    a. ordinary and standard   b. formative and growing   c. masterful and established

6. Which of the following is a FACT about da Vinci's work?

    a. He refused to examine cadavers to learn more about the human body.
    b. He wanted the Mona Lisa to be a clear depiction of his beloved mother.
    c. He supported himself by designing weapons and bridges.

7. Why did da Vinci's father think he should be an artist?

    a. He showed an innate talent for the arts and a well-known artist wanted to train him.
    b. He had a talent for athletics, but only the most elite citizens got to be athletes.
    c. He knew that being an artist was an extremely lucrative career.

8. How did da Vinci's attention to detail help him become a better artist?

    a. His careful observation of wings influenced his famous mural of airplanes.
    b. He was able to use his knowledge of machinery to create stylishly designed weapons.
    c. He was able to depict life more realistically and create subtle effects in his paintings.

9. A typical elevated heart rate during exercise is at 60-80 beats per minute.

    a. true   b. false

10. Your wingspan is approximately equal to your height.

    a. true   b. false