

## **Mona Lisa by Leonardo DaVinci :60 Lesson Plan**

- I. **Introduce Masterpiece of the Month: Mona Lisa by Leonardo DaVinci (write it on the board) (5 min).**
  - a. Be sure to ask if anyone has noticed a reproduction of this painting hanging on the walls of Lyon or Pleasant Ridge School
  - b. Discuss elements and principles of art including: line, shapes, colors, form, and textures. Space, value, balance, pattern, movements, contrast emphasis, rhythm and unity.
  - c. If you have a painted portrait of yourself or your child, please consider bringing it in. Great to facilitate a discussion on how the portrait does or does not look like the person in real life.  
- Do you think the Mona Lisa really looked like this...or is this just how DaVinci thought she looked??
  
- II. **Read (selected pages only) from Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artists (15 min) OR**
  - a. Be sure to highlight nifty fact Leonardo DaVinci wrote everything backwards. Write Leonardo DaVinci's name the way HE would have written it on the board.
  - b. Please highlight belief that people think that Mona Lisa's eyes follow the viewer from all angles.
  
- III. **Walk students quietly down hall to observe Mona Lisa's eyes or do this in the classroom (15 min)**
  - a. Place three masking taps "x's" on the floor on three positions in front of the Mona Lisa
  - b. Have children in a single file line. One at a time, have each child stand on each taped "x" and determine for themselves if they feel that her eyes were following them..
  - c. Return to the classroom.
  
- IV. **Distribute voting ballots OR vote with raise of hands (10 min).**
  - a. Tally votes on the board.
  - a. Use relevant math skills to determine the majority.
    - i. Graph results on board; bar chart, pie chart
    - ii. Use tally marks

iii. Express as percent or fraction

**V. Art Project (20 min).**

- a. Have students break into pairs.
- b. Distribute paper and drawing materials
- c. Distribute "observation" worksheet
- d. Start CD of "Mona Lisa" music
- e. Have one student pose while the other student draws his/her portrait.

**Reinforce art concept of a portrait and encourage student to try to observe and draw exactly what they see**

- f. After 10 minutes switch
  - i. As the students are working, travel through the teams and help observe facial characteristics to capture their portrait (i.e. freckles, dark eyelashes or eyebrows...)
- g. Be sure to have student sign their work of art, then present the portrait to their partner to take home.

**VI. Wrap up exercise**

- a. Who can tell me the name of the Master piece of the Month?
- b. Who can tell me the name of the artist?
- c. Who can tell me one nifty fact about the Masterpiece or the Master?

**VII. Put leave behind materials in mailboxes**

- a. Letter home
- b. DaVinci "mirror writing" exercise - Art Parent must fill in each student's name using "mirror" writing. (See example attached)
- c. Mona Lisa coloring page