# Mona Lisa



The Mona Lisa is one of the most famous paintings in the world. It was created by world-famous Italian artist Leonardo da Vinci. It was painted around 1503. It is a portrait of the wife of a rich Merchant who lived in Florence, Italy. Her name was More than 30 layers of paint have been used on the painting and some of them are thinner than a human hair. This painting is worth around \$782 million.



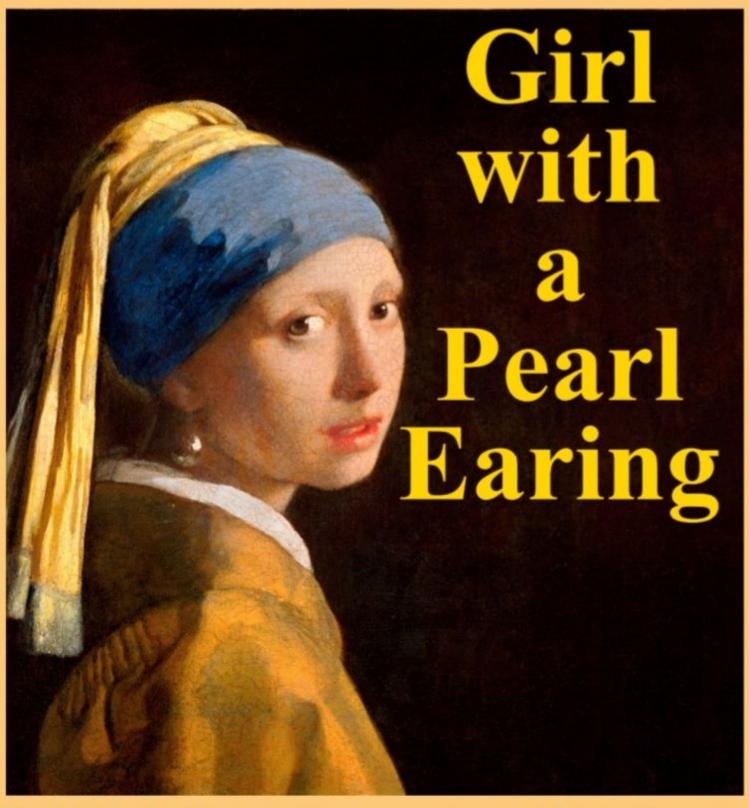
#### Quick Facts:

- The subject of the painting has no visible eyebrows or eyelashes. It is believed that they gradually disappeared over time or because of cleaning.
- This painting shows the most famous smile in the world.
- Mona Lisa is an English title that has been derived from the Italian word "Mona" which is a short form of the phrase "ma doona".
- Mona or Ma doona means "My Lady".
- Another name for the Mona Lisa in Italian is La Gioconda and in French is La Joconde which means happy.
- The Mona Lisa painting is around 500 years old.
- It took around four years to paint Mona Lisa.
- Mona Lisa is owned by the French government and is put on display at Louvre Museum.
- In 2022, an old man went to the museum and smeared cake all over the Mona Lisa. The painting was not damaged because it is protected by a bulletproof glass. The man said he wanted to attract people's attention to 'the climate change'.

## Questions:

- 1. Who painted the Mona Lisa?
- 2. Who is the subject of this painting?
- 3. How old is this painting?
- 4. Where is it kept?
- 5. How long did it take to paint the Mona Lisa?
- 6. What does Mona mean?
- 7. What are the other names for this painting?





The Girl with a Pearl Earring depicts a young woman in a dark space. She wears a blue and gold turban, the pearl earring, and a gold jacket with a white collar. It was painted by Dutch artist Johannes Vermeer.

Some people believe that the girl in the painting is imaginary, whereas others believe that it is a real person. It is also said that she could be Vermeer's own daughter, Maria Vermeer.



#### Quick Facts:

- Nobody knows exactly when the painting was completed. However, some people estimate that it was painted in the year 1665.
- The original painting is quite small. It measures 44.5 by 39 centimeters.
- Some people call this painting 'The Mona Lisa of the North' or 'The Dutch Mona Lisa'.
- The work is kept in the Mauritshuis museum in the Netherlands.

#### Questions:

- 1. Who painted The Girl with The Pearl Earring?
- 2. Who is the girl in this painting?
- 3. Where is it kept?
- 4. What are the measurements of this work?
- 5. What are other names for this painting?



# Starry Night

The Starry Night is a famous painting of a moonlit sky with stars in. It was painted by Vincent van Gogh in 1888 or 1889. Van Gogh spent one year in a mental hospital. This work shows the view from his room at the clinic.



# **Quick Facts**



- "This morning I saw the countryside from my window a long time before sunrise, with nothing but the morning star, which looked very big," wrote van Gogh to his brother Theo, describing his inspiration for The Starry Night.
- It is located in the Museum of Modern Art in New York.
- The Starry Night shows exactly 11 stars. Many people believe that they refer to the story of Joseph Prophet who had a dream where the sun the moon and the eleven stars bowed down to him.

## Questions:

- 1. Who painted the Starry Night?
- 2. How many stars are there in this picture? What do they represent?
- 3. Where is this painting located?