

## 1. 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?