










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?







Girl with a Pearl Earring



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.



-  “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?

