

At striving with new
ideas. nowadays,
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At the age of 67, Leonardo died. He was a wiseman always living in the moment. My favorite saying of his is " A well-filled day gives a good sleep. A well-filled life gives a peaceful death." The influence from the world around him and knowledge in science, engineering, and art helped him develop a one of a kind philosophy. There's no doubt Leonardo da Vinci found most of his influence through observing the natural world surrounding him. He used his observations of nature to seek the truth.

Growing up in the renaissance helped Leonardo become a historical artist. Andrea del Verrocchio played a perfect role model for Leonardo da Vinci growing up. Verrocchio developed Leonardo da Vinci into his full potential. Once Verrocchio noticed Leonardo had surpassed his skills he did the right thing and passed over the torch.

Niccolo Machiavelli was the first to influence Leonardo to start thinking politically. It's safe to say that Leonardo's environment influenced him to keep striving with new ideas. Nowadays, Scientists, artists, philosophers, and engineers take all of Leonardo da Vinci's accomplishments and use it for influence. In 1503, Leonardo da Vinci began working on the Mona Lisa. In the painting Leonardo ties together, humanity with nature. Humanity and nature are the two most influential things in Leonardo's artistic life.

According to Leonardo, man was nature's most perfect creation, " the measure of all things." The scenery of rivers from his sketches are incorporated into the background of the Mona Lisa. It's rumored that the Mona Lisa might be someone Leonardo da Vinci lusts for. In 1506, the French

governor called on Leonardo da Vinci to come back to Milan, where he will become the court painter and engineer to King Louis XII of France.

Moving back allowed Leonardo da Vinci to work freely and spend more time on his many engineering projects. While living in France, Leonardo opened a substantially sized workshop with multiple assistants and apprentices. In 1513 Leonardo da Vinci moved to Rome under the rule of Giuliano de Medici. The aging Leonardo da Vinci was given a suite of rooms in Giuliano's house. With no major art projects to work on Leonardo tended to focus on his engineering and scientific studies.

The Last Supper is Leonardo's most iconic piece of religious artwork. Leonardo da Vinci painted The Last Supper for the Duke of Milan. The Biblical episode of The Last Supper is told in all four of the gospels and is one of the most referenced events in all of Christianity. The painting pictures Jesus with all his apostles sitting around him at the dinner table.

Each apostle is displaying their different emotions because Jesus says that one apostle will betray him. Since a young church boy, Leonardo da Vinci always had an interest in religious art. Although this piece represents the past I still think Leonardo took inspiration from his present day. The Last Supper has influenced many modern artists to create their own version of the dinner.

Niccolo Machiavelli was a political observer for the city of Florence.

Machiavelli was the first one to spark Leonardo da Vinci's curiosity for politics.

During Leonardo's da Vinci time, Niccolo Machiavelli, was known as a

renowned writer and political thinker. Leonardo da Vinci was interested in a substantial waterworks project that Machiavelli was working on. Machiavelli wanted to make Florence more water accessible by building a system of canals for economic and military purposes. In addition, Leonardo worked on installing irrigation that would bring water to farmers.

Their goal was to build Florence into the most powerful city in Italy. While working on this project Leonardo da Vinci learned how to survey and take measurements of land. His maps of canals flowing through valleys and mountains set the foundation for modern cartography. Unfortunately, Leonardo and Machiavelli's water project would be abandoned because it kept getting destroyed by floods. Throughout his work Leonardo gained tremendous knowledge of geology. Leonardo had the ability to create visualizations of what natural forms of land looked like from space. Andrea Del Verrocchio was a popular sculptor, painter, and goldsmith in the city of Florence.

He had a profound influence on leading artists in the Renaissance. Young artists were attracted to Verrocchio's creative thinking. Leonardo da Vinci would eventually spend years working on important projects in Verrocchio's studio. When Leonardo was 20 years old he was accepted into the San Luca guild of painters in Florence. However, he stayed in contact with the Verrocchio studio for several more years.

Once Leonardo da Vinci finished his apprenticeship he began painting in a more sculptural style. Leonardo began his professional career after ten years with Verrocchio. Leonardo needs people who allow him freedom to explore

his own ideas. It doesn't take long for Leonardo to learn how to tie in density and transparency in his paintings.

It is said that Verrocchio assigned Leonardo to paint an angel in a painting he was working on, "The Baptism of Christ." Once Verrocchio saw how Leonardo handled the light and shadow, he was convinced his young student had possessed supreme artistic talent. Andrea Del Verrocchio felt that he needed to pass the torch. Verrocchio influenced multiple creations of the Renaissance and continued to have an influence on Leonardo da Vinci. Before moving to Florence, the artwork in his local churches was the first thing to inspire him. One year after moving into his father's household, Leonardo's father moved the family to Florence.

Working for the Medici family at the age of fifteen, Leonardo was already showing great promise as a painter. Leonardo's father was a highly respected figure in the Florence community. In 1467, Leonardo's father employed him to work for Andrea del Verrocchio the most well-known artist in Florence. Verrocchio's art/engineering studio brought together the best young artistic talent of Italy. Shadowing the famous artist on extensive art projects helped Leonardo form his dedicated skillset.

He believed there are limitations when seeking truth from The Bible and other ancient writings. Instead of learning about nature through past religion and meditation, Leonardo found the truth by observing the natural world. Early in his artistic career he began studying the human body, landscapes, animals, and plants intensely in his search to understand all-natural things. Leonardo da Vinci saw the world as a living entity, with all its elements in a

constant rate of change. He believed a true artist first visualizes ideas in his mind and then in his hands. The scientific method was an important part to his everyday life, including his art and music. An interest in nature led Leonardo to start observing and asking scientific questions like, "How do birds fly?" Leonardo da Vinci speculated that one could fly by imitating the way birds flap their wings.

A quote from Leonardo states "Once you have flown, you will walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward; for there you have been, there you long to return." Every one of Leonardo's observations was recorded and sketched out. His goal as an artist was to remake nature in his art. Many of his observations compared the natural world to the human body. For example, Leonardo noticed a similarity in the way water would flow in a stream as it did in the veins. The human sense he admired the most was sight because it is the "window of the soul."

"The human eye is the key to observation. There's no doubt the human body was a main influence for Leonardo. Leonardo da Vinci was born in the hills of Tuscany, Italy, in 1452. He always had an interest and respect for nature and animals. He spent his childhood exploring the hills and searching through the forest to observe birds. Leonardo recalls his earliest childhood memory of a bird that flew over to him in his cradle, the bird influenced him to pursue the dream of flying. As a young boy he had a fascination with flowing water.

Leonardo da Vinci has many accomplishments as a sculptor, architect, philosopher, engineer, and scientist, but was he influenced by past

civilizations or present day? In my opinion, Leonardo was influenced by his present day. His unique and innovative mind separates him from other renaissance artists that imitated artwork from past civilizations. Ancient Greek and Roman culture is used as an inspiration for the renaissance art, science, and philosophy. A lot of renaissance artists would try to emulate classical Greek architecture, and sculptures. Leonardo's father was Piero da Vinci, a wealthy businessman and land owner with lots of powerful friends. His father provided him with a good education growing up. Early on, Leonardo displayed signs of being a gifted artist with a very curious mind.

He was also exposed to his family's long painting tradition. Piero da Vinci, Verrocchio, and Machiavelli are just a few influential figures that surrounded him growing up. From my observations, Leonardo da Vinci is an in the moment type of person. He mostly formulated most of his ideas through the influence of the natural world.