

The life and times of Leonardo da Vinci

Leonardo da Vinci, renowned Renaissance artist and polymath, died on May 2, 1519, aged 67



Leonardo's birthplace



✦ 1486: Completes first of two versions of **Virgin of the Rocks**

✦ 1495: Mural of **Last Supper** (above) takes two years to complete, using experimental technique

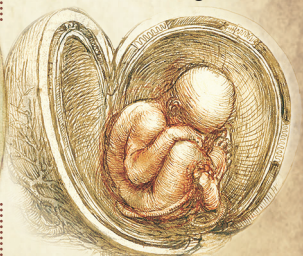
✦ 1499: Invading French forces destroy Gran Cavallo, using it for target practice

✦ 1500: Leaves Milan and travels to Mantua, Venice and back to Florence, where he begins work on **Madonna and Child with St Anne** (finished 1503). Last Supper begins to deteriorate

✦ 1506: Summoned to Milan, he abandons **Battle of Anghiari** (below)*. Mural is lost but may survive behind later mural by **Vasari**



✦ 1508: Employed by French king **Louis XII**. Resumes major anatomical studies – dissecting cadavers



✦ 1513: Invited to Rome by **Giuliano de Medici**, brother of **Pope Leo X**. Focuses on scientific studies

✦ 1514: Returns to Florence and paints his only known self-portrait



✦ 1515: Pope forbids any further human dissections. Paints last known picture, **St John the Baptist**

✦ 1516: Moves to France as premier painter, engineer and architect to King **Francois I**, who gives him house in Amboise. Right hand paralysed by stroke

✦ May 2, 1519: Leonardo dies. His remains lie in **Chapel of Saint-Hubert** at **Château d'Amboise**



✦ Apr 15, 1452: **Leonardo di ser Piero da Vinci** born out of wedlock to notary **Piero da Vinci** and peasant named **Caterina** in Anchiano, near Vinci. Grows up on father's estate and treated as legitimate son – receiving elementary education

✦ 1466: Moves to Florence with father. Apprenticed to artist **Verrocchio**



✦ 1472: Paints angel in Verrocchio's **Baptism of Christ** (above). Qualifies as master in Guild of St Luke – fellowship of artists

✦ 1473: Drawing of **Arno Valley** is earliest known dated work



✦ 1476: Leonardo and three other men acquitted on charges of sodomy

✦ 1480: Supported by **Lorenzo de Medici**, noted patron of arts

✦ 1481: Begins altarpiece **Adoration of the Magi**, but it remains unfinished when he moves to Milan

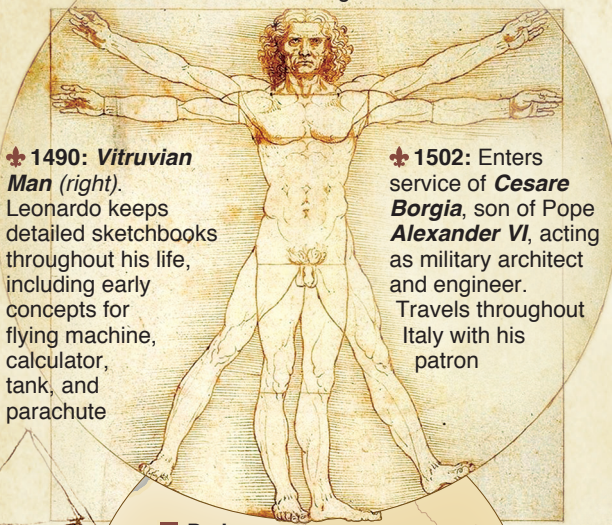
✦ 1483: Offers his services as engineer, architect, sculptor and painter to **Ludovico Sforza**, Duke of Milan. Begins studies for monumental equestrian sculpture in honour of Sforza's father



✦ 1490: **Vitruvian Man** (right). Leonardo keeps detailed sketchbooks throughout his life, including early concepts for flying machine, calculator, tank, and parachute



✦ 1493: Builds **Gran Cavallo**, full-scale clay model of horse statue, but Duke uses bronze set aside for statue to defend city from invasion



✦ 1502: Enters service of **Cesare Borgia**, son of Pope **Alexander VI**, acting as military architect and engineer. Travels throughout Italy with his patron



✦ 1503: Returns to Florence to begin work on vast mural of **Battle of Anghiari** in Palazzo Vecchio. Begins **Mona Lisa**

