

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Historical Investigation – The Original Renaissance Man



**Directions:** In order to answer the focus question, you must first consider the source, purpose, and content of each historical document. You must also consider how the content of each document corroborates (strengthens) or contradicts evidence found in other documents. Examine all the documents and then answer the questions that follow. This will assist you in answering the focus question at the end of the investigation.

**Focus Question: Does Leonardo da Vinci deserve the title “Renaissance Man?”**

### Document 1: Map of Imola, Italy (c. 1502)

Da Vinci was first hired to create maps of a town in Florence, Italy, in order to better defend it from invading armies. The map here of Imola, a town in central Italy, was made for Cesare Borgia and includes incredible detail considering the lack of overhead views.



#### Caption: Map of Imola, Italy (c. 1502)

Source: This image from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Leonardo\\_da\\_vinci,\\_Town\\_plan\\_of\\_Imola.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Leonardo_da_vinci,_Town_plan_of_Imola.jpg) is in the public domain because its copyright has expired.

1. Identify the source and type of document.

2. What is the message of the document?

3. Why was this document created? What was its purpose?

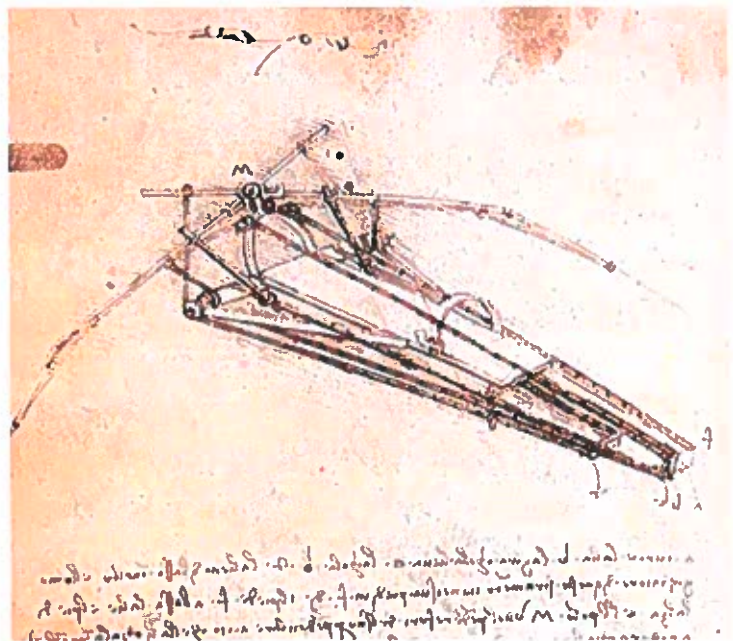
4. Does this document corroborate (support) or contradict the others? Why or why not?

5. How might this document help you answer the focus question?

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**Document 2: Design For a Flying Machine (c. 1488)**

Da Vinci also drew designs for technologically advanced ideas that would eventually be created only hundreds of years afterward, following the industrial era. In addition to the primitive airplane shown here, da Vinci drew advanced designs of helicopters, river dams, and hydraulic dams.



**Caption: da Vinci's design for a flying machine**

Source: This image from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Design\\_for\\_a\\_Flying\\_Machine.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Design_for_a_Flying_Machine.jpg) is in the public domain because its copyright has expired.

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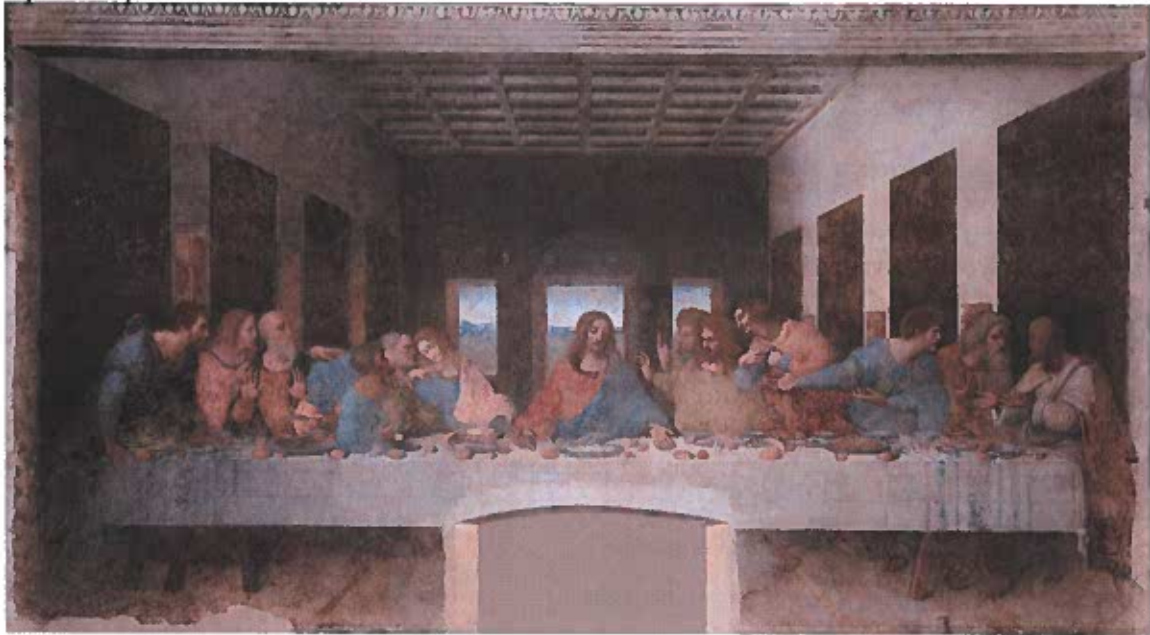
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**Document 3: *The Last Supper* (1498)**

*The Last Supper* remains one of the most recognizable works of Renaissance art. It portrays a biblical scene focused on the central figure of Jesus, and uses a linear style to show depth and focus the viewers' attention. Da Vinci mastered the use of scientific principles to produce realistic scenes.



**Caption: Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper"**

Source: The image from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Última\\_Cena\\_-\\_Da\\_Vinci\\_5.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Última_Cena_-_Da_Vinci_5.jpg) is in the public domain because its copyright has expired.

1. Identify the source and type of document.

[Empty text box for answer]

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[Empty text box for answer]

3. Why was this document created? What was its purpose?

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[Empty text box for answer]

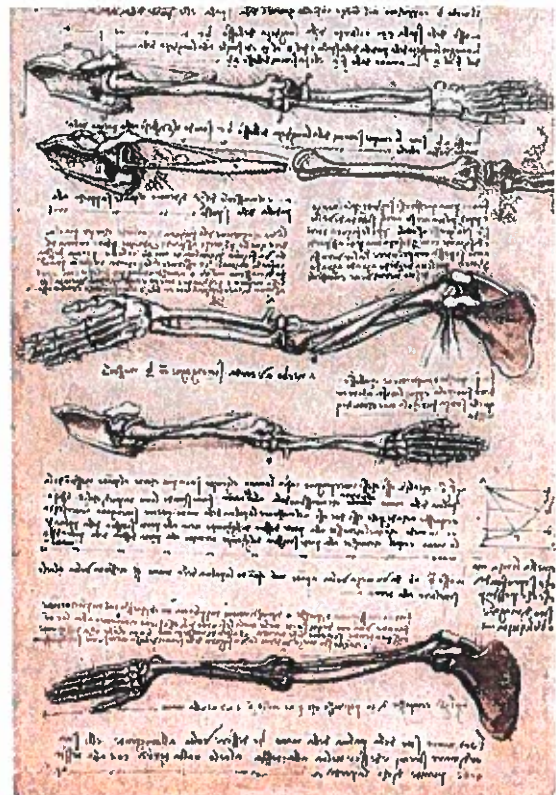
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**Document 4: Drawing of Human Arm (c. 1510)**

As an apprentice, da Vinci also learned about human anatomy and often recorded his knowledge in journals. Found in a journal, "Studies of the Arm Showing the Movement of the Biceps" demonstrated his amazing ability to recreate lifelike images of complicated parts of the human body.

**Caption: Drawing of Human Arm**

Source: This image from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Studies\\_of\\_the\\_Arm\\_showing\\_the\\_Movements\\_made\\_by\\_the\\_Biceps.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Studies_of_the_Arm_showing_the_Movements_made_by_the_Biceps.jpg) is in the public domain because its copyright has expired.



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**Document 5: *Mona Lisa* (1507)**

The *Mona Lisa* remains, arguably, the most famous painting in world history. It reflects many of da Vinci's talents, such as the use of light and shadow and the use of human expression. The positioning of the figure, also known as *La Gioconda* or "Laughing One" also gives the viewer the illusion of being followed by the figure's eyes.

**Caption: *Mona Lisa***

Source: This image from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mona\\_Lisa.jpeg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mona_Lisa.jpeg) is in the public domain because its copyright has expired.



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**Document 6: Renaissance Era Admirer**

As advances in engineering and other sciences progressed, praise for da Vinci's work grew throughout modern history. However, some contemporary observers of da Vinci's work also applauded his talents. In the following excerpt from *Lives of the Most Eminent Italian Architects, Painters and Sculptors* (1550), author Giorgio Vasari commends da Vinci's abilities.

*And he practiced not one branch of art only, but all those in which drawing played a part; and having an intellect so divine and marvelous that he was also an excellent geometrician, he not only worked in sculpture, making in his youth, in clay, some heads of women that are smiling, of which plaster casts are still taken, and likewise some heads of boys which appeared to have issued from the hand of a master; but in architecture, also, he made many drawings both of ground-plans and of other designs of buildings; and he was the first, although but a youth, who suggested the plan of reducing the river Arno to a navigable canal from Pisa to Florence. He made designs of flour-mills, fullingmills, and engines, which might be driven by the force of water;...*

Source: Medieval Sourcebook, <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/vasari1.html>