

Name _____ Date _____ Class _____

Bell Ringer: Leonardo da Vinci: *The Last Supper*

Instructions: Examine the picture. Read the back ground. Answer the questions below.



Background: The Last Supper is a famous painting by Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519). This painting is of Jesus having a final meal with his disciples before his crucifixion. Scenes from the Bible and other aspects of religious imagery significant to Christianity were often depicted in paintings, sculptures, and other works during the Renaissance era, which lasted roughly from the 1300s to the 1600s. Renaissance means “rebirth,” because a lot of artists idolized past cultures, like Greece and Rome, and sought to create works that pointed back to these eras. Leonardo is perhaps the most iconic of all the Renaissance artists. While he was a talented painter, he also was skilled in drawing, sculpting, architecture, created various inventions, and pursued other areas of study. Historians refer to Leonardo as a “Renaissance Man,” meaning he was skilled in a wide variety of disciplines.

1. What does the painting *The Last Supper* depict? What does this tell you about the society in which Leonardo lived?

2. What is perspective? How do you see perspective in this painting?

3. What does it mean that Leonardo was a “Renaissance Man”? Explain.

Answers:

1. What does the painting The Last Supper depict? What does this tell you about the society in which Leonardo lived?

The last supper is a depiction of Jesus' final meal before his crucifixion. This indicates that the culture in which Leonardo created this work valued the religious beliefs of Christianity.

2. What is perspective? How do you see perspective in this painting?

Perspective is the ability to make a painting appear three dimensional. The way the walls flow back and the background stands out from the foreground are ways you see the technique in the painting.

3. What does it mean that Leonardo was a "Renaissance Man"? Explain.

To be a "Renaissance Man" meant one was skilled in a variety of disciplines. Leonardo is a great example of a Renaissance Man, since he was skilled in painting, sculpting, pursued various endeavors to create inventions, and was active in other disciplines.