

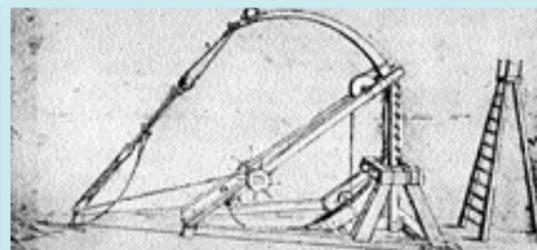
The Renaissance Man

LISTENING MATTERS

- A** One of the greatest inventors in history was Leonardo da Vinci. Which of the following inventions do you think he is famous for?



Gunpowder



Catapult (an ancient military device for throwing large stones)



Printing Press

- B** You are going to read a short biography about Leonardo da Vinci. Look at the new words. What do you learn about Leonardo da Vinci?

| | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-------------|------------------------|------------|
| advanced | deadly weapons | left-handed | scientific discoveries | sculptor |
| backwards | engineer | parachute | scissors | vegetarian |
| to be considered | handful | to publish | | |

- C** Read the biography and see if you were right.

LEONARDO

Leonardo da Vinci was born in Italy in 1452 and died in 1519. He was one of the greatest inventor-scientists in history. His genius is timeless. He was not only a painter, but also a scientist, engineer, sculptor, architect, musician, mathematician and inventor. Among his most famous paintings are the *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper*. His inventions include the scissors, the bicycle, the helicopter, the tank, the clock, the catapult and the parachute. He was the ideal Renaissance man.

Who was Leonardo da Vinci?

He was many things. He had a sharp eye and a quick mind that led him to make important scientific discoveries, yet he never published his ideas.

He was a gentle vegetarian who loved animals and hated war, yet he worked as a military engineer to invent advanced and deadly weapons.

He was one of the greatest painters of the Italian Renaissance, yet he left only a handful of completed paintings.

- ¹⁵ In addition, Leonardo was a “leftie”. He was left-handed at a time when to be left-handed was considered “the devil’s work”, and lefties were often forced to use their right hands. Some people believe that one of the reasons for his genius was that he was left-handed. He also wrote backwards, and most of his writings are impossible to read unless you look at them with a mirror!



- D**  Discuss the following questions with your partner.

1. Leonardo da Vinci invented many things. Which of the inventions mentioned in the biography do you think are the most important. Why?
2. According to what you read in the biography, why do you think most of Leonardo's inventions were not tried out?
3. In your opinion, what is Leonardo da Vinci most famous for?

- E** You are going to hear an interview about one of Leonardo's inventions. Listen and find out which one.

- F** Listen again and answer the following questions in your notebook.

1. Complete the sentence.
When you watch an IMAX film, you
2. Adrian Nicholas is a famous
 - a. history professor.
 - b. inventor.
 - c. skydiver.
 - d. film expert.
3. In this passage, we hear about Leonardo as
 - a. a painter.
 - b. a sculptor.
 - c. an inventor.
 - d. a “leftie”.
4. Leonardo
 - a. designed a parachute.
 - b. jumped from a parachute.
 - c. invented an airplane.
 - d. jumped with Adrian Nicholas.
5. Complete the sentence.
Adrian Nicholas's parachute was based on drawings from the year
6. Name two pieces of information in Leonardo's note.
7. Which two of the following are correct?
 - a. Nicholas's parachute weighed 30 kilos.
 - b. The frame of the parachute was nearly 7 square meters.
 - c. The parachute was attached to a hot-air balloon.
 - d. Nicholas was attached to the parachute by wood.
 - e. Nicholas flew for over 15 kilometers.
 - f. Nicholas flew with Katarina.
8. Was the parachute invented before or after the airplane?

- G**  What do you think Adrian Nicholas learned from this experience? Discuss with a partner.