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## Leonardo da Vinci

Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) became a legend in his lifetime. His abilities were so great and so varied that he was regarded with admiration and awe. He is the archetypal Renaissance man.

Leonardo da Vinci lived more than 500 years ago, but his ideas and his work are as fresh and exciting as if he lived yesterday. Long before there were airplanes, submarines or tanks, Leonardo conceptualized them. Years before artists were much concerned about picturing nature as it really looked, Leonardo was painting realistic scenes of his native Italy into the backgrounds of portraits and religious works. He studied man to paint bodies as close to reality as possible. Nature inspired him to design machines that were centuries ahead of their time. As an inventor, an engineer, a musician, a scientist, and an artist—there was almost nothing he couldn't do.

Leonardo thought about the future. Almost as if he knew that we would want to learn more about him and his work, he left behind hundreds of pages of notebooks with sketches and writings, along with all his paintings, drawings, designs and models. Looking at them we can travel back in time to meet this amazing man. This is the world of art, invention and one man's awe-inspiring and astounding genius.