

L3-13day13

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## High Renaissance Art

### Art Discussed:

Leonardo, *Virgin of the Rocks*

Leonardo, *Last Supper*

Leonardo, *Mona Lisa*

### VOCAB:

Chiaroscuro

Cinquecento

Sfumato

### HW

### Activity Sheet.

#### Leonardo, *Virgin of the Rocks*

- Visionary, mystical feeling
- No traditional haloes
- Tradition of mountain opening up miraculously to shelter the Holy Family
- Water running is a symbol of baptism
- Ivy in background symbolizes fidelity and continuity
- Angel Uriel's expression: to whom is it directed?
- Unusual pattern of hands, forms a cross of Jesus' head?
- Chiaroscuro, sfumato, atmospheric perspective
- Botanist's and geologist's attention to the foreground plants and the mysterious setting of the mist-shrouded cave

#### Leonardo, *Last Supper*

- Only remaining work in situ, painted on a wall of the monks' dining room
- Oil, tempera, fresco technique on a damp wall made the fresco flake

- Captures the moment when Christ says, “One of you will betray me”
- Christ appears calm amid the storm of animated gestures
- Various psychological portraits in the reactions of the apostles: surprise, anger, fear, denial, etc.
- Rhythmic groupings of three, Christ at center in open-armed pose of serene acceptance
- Perspective beams of the ceiling, floor and tapestries on walls point to Christ
- Fictional space advances real space of room
- Pyramidal shape of Christ’s body, a favorite High Renaissance form
- Subtle halo of the rounded pediment above his head
- Three windows symbolize the Trinity
- Judas obscured by darkness falls back, clutching his bag of coins

### **Leonardo, *Mona Lisa***

- Pyramid form with hands at base
- She is not smiling, but gives the illusion
- Psychological insight, coupled with enticing inaccessibility
- Aerial perspective: she sits in a window box with a fantasy background
- Picture cut down later on three sides, we see only the base of the columns in the window box or balcony
- 26 or 27 years old, likely the wife of a Florentine silk merchant, Francesco del Giocondo
- $\frac{3}{4}$  view, more of the body shown, gentle contrapposto suggested
- Unity of figure and landscape