

Neo Leo

A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

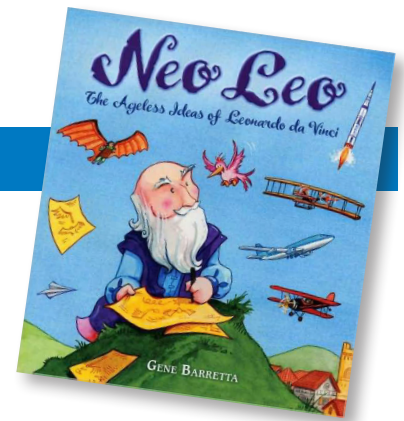
Themes: Inventions, Engineering, Careers

Grade Level: 3rd to 5th grade

Book Brief: Many of the inventions we use today were actually dreamed up by Leonardo da Vinci 500 years ago! This book

introduces you to a few of them.

Author and Illustrator:
Gene Barretta



TIME TO READ!

Before reading: What do the children know about Leonardo da Vinci? Explain that he was a famous artist, scientist, and inventor who lived in Italy during the *Renaissance*. Find Italy on a map or globe.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

EGG DROP CHALLENGE (AGES 7-12)

Materials per small group: 1 egg (raw, not hardboiled), scissors, tape, scrap materials (cardboard, paper, plastic bags, etc.)

Divide the children into teams and give them the following challenge: Build a container that will keep an egg safe when dropped from a great height. They can use whatever you have around the center to build their designs. Once the containers are built, place an egg in each and drop them from the same height. Which teams' eggs survive intact? What do the successful designs have in common?

SMILING FACES (AGES 7-12)

Materials: paper; markers, crayons, or paint

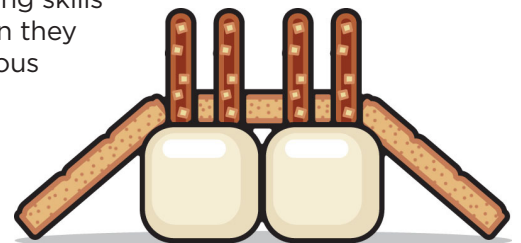
Leonardo was an artist as well as an inventor. His painting of Mona Lisa is famous for the woman's half-smiling expression. Have children draw or paint their own versions of Mona Lisa—with a different expression! Give her a big smile or a pouty frown.

How does changing her expression change the picture? (You can see the original version here: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mona_Lisa.)

BUILDING BRIDGES (AGES 5-12)

Ingredients: pretzel sticks, marshmallows, graham crackers

Give each child a handful of pretzel sticks and marshmallows and a few graham crackers to put their engineering skills to the test! Can they create a delicious design for a bridge? See whose design will hold the most weight.



TECHNOLOGY LINK

Visit www.museoscienza.org/english/leonardo to explore a virtual da Vinci museum!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

Dear Deer (2010), *Now & Ben* (2008), *Timeless Thomas* (2012).

TECHNOLOGY LINK FOR KIDS

www.rif.org/kids



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