

Neo Leo

A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

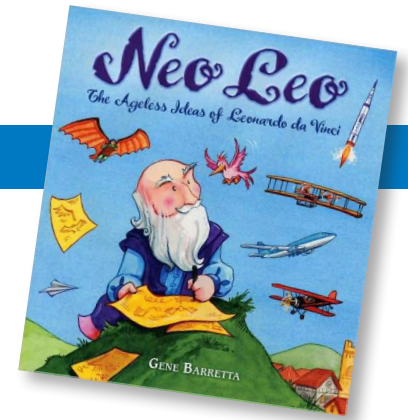
Themes: Inventions, Engineering, Careers

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, build background: What does your child know about Leonardo da Vinci? Explain that he was a famous artist, scientist, and inventor who

lived in Italy during the *Renaissance*.

While reading, make comparisons: How do Leonardo's designs compare to later inventions? Did the later

inventor have to make any changes?

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ Which invention is the most interesting?
- ◆ Which one do you think has been the most useful? Least useful?
- ◆ How was Leonardo able to come up with these ideas 500 years ago?



RELATED ACTIVITIES

BUILDING BRIDGES

Ingredients: pretzel sticks, marshmallows, graham crackers

Give your child a handful of pretzel sticks and marshmallows and a few graham crackers and let them put their engineering skills to the test! Can they create a delicious design for a bridge? See how much weight their design will hold by placing a few pieces of silverware on top.

EGG DROP CHALLENGE

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

Put on your inventor's cap and build a container that will keep an egg safe when dropped from a great height. Use whatever you have around the house to build your container. Try to keep the container smaller

than a shoebox. Once you've built your container, place a raw egg inside and drop it from somewhere high. Did your egg crack?

SMILING FACES

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. Draw or paint your own version 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.)

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).



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