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Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

Level 6
Scientists search for real Mona Lisa

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http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1308/130814-mona_lisa.html

Contents

Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

Scientists say they are close to finding the remains of the woman who modelled for Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece the Mona Lisa. Researchers have opened a centuries-old tomb in the Italian city of Florence. They believe they will find the skeleton of da Vinci's muse Lisa Gioconda, the wife of a 16th-century silk merchant. Silvano Vinceti, head of Italy's National Committee for the Promotion of Historic and Cultural Heritage, plans to test the DNA of the bones under the church to determine whether or not Ms Gioconda is the woman behind that famous, enigmatic smile. Mr Vinceti will then use a computer graphics program to generate a face from the skull and compare it to the painting.

Leonardo da Vinci's painting has been a constant source of fascination for art experts and ordinary folk alike. Vinceti said: "For centuries, historians the world over have been coming up with various theories about who this enigmatic, mysterious woman could have been." He asks: "Was Gioconda the model for the Mona Lisa? Or was it some other model, as some people say? Or is it just a construction of the painter's fantasy?" Antonio Moretti, a geologist from L'Aquila University told the euronews.com website: "We were very lucky I'd say, because not only is there a good amount of bone remains, but they are also disposed of in order at the bottom of the crypt, with a plate indicating they belong to the Gioconda family."

WARM-UPS

1. THE MONA LISA: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about the Mona Lisa. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

scientists / remains / masterpiece / skeleton / heritage / DNA / enigmatic smile / fascination / art experts / historians / theories / fantasy / geologist / lucky

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. WHY ART IS GOOD: Complete this table with your partner(s) and share what you wrote. Change partners often.

Art…	How?	My experience(s) of this
encourages creativity		
teaches problem solving		
develops the whole brain		
builds community		
utilises all the senses		
can make you rich		

4. ART: Students A **strongly** believe art is an important school subject; Students B **strongly** believe not. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. THE ARTS: Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- painting
- opera
- architecture
- ballet

- literature
- photography
- animation
- culinary art

6. PAINTING: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'painting'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

a.	Scientists are looking for a modern-day Mona Lisa.	T / F
b.	Researchers think the real Mona Lisa was Leonardo da Vinci's wife.	T / F
c.	Scientists will analyse the bones of a body found in Florence.	T / F
d.	Computer graphics will create a new Mona Lisa painting.	T / F
e.	The Mona Lisa has ordinary people as well as specialists in art.	T / F
f.	Historians have created theories about the Mona Lisa for centuries.	T / F
g.	Silvano Vinceti believes the Mona Lisa came from da Vinci's fantasies.	T / F
h.	The bones researchers are looking at had family nameplates.	T / F

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

1.	remains		a.	thinking of
2	merchant		b.	mysterious
3.	determine		c.	interest
4.	enigmatic		d.	thrown away
5.	generate		e.	bones
6.	fascination		f.	people
7.	folk		g.	create
8.	coming up with		h.	trader
9.	disposed of		i.	showing
10.	indicating		j.	find out

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

1.	they are close to finding the remains		a.	old tomb
2	Researchers have opened a centuries-		b.	painter's fantasy
3.	da Vinci's		c.	of the woman
4.	the woman behind that		d.	of fascination
5.	generate a face from the skull and compare		e.	ordinary folk alike
6.	a constant source		f.	muse
7.	art experts and		g.	it to the painting
8.	coming up		h.	the bottom of the crypt
9.	a construction of the		i.	famous, enigmatic smile
10.	disposed of in order at		j.	with various theories

GAP FILL

Scientists say they are close to finding the (1) _____ of the woman who modelled for Leonardo da Vinci's (2) _____ the Mona Lisa. Researchers have opened a centuries-old tomb in the Italian city of Florence. They believe they will find the (3) _____ of da Vinci's muse Lisa Gioconda, the wife of a 16th-century silk (4) _____. Silvano Vinceti, head of Italy's National Committee for the Promotion of Historic and Cultural Heritage, (5) _____ to test the DNA of the bones under the church to (6) _____ whether or not Ms Gioconda is the woman behind that famous, (7) _____ smile. Mr Vinceti will then use a computer graphics program to generate a face from the skull and (8) _____ it to the painting.

merchant

enigmatic

masterpiece

compare

remains

plans

skeleton

determine

Leonardo da Vinci's painting has been a (9) _____ source of fascination for art experts and ordinary folk (10) _____. Vinceti said: "For centuries, historians the world over have been coming up with (11) _____ theories about who this enigmatic, mysterious woman could have been." He asks: "Was Gioconda the model for the Mona Lisa? Or was it some other model, as some people say? Or is it just a construction of the painter's (12) _____?" Antonio Moretti, a geologist from L'Aquila University told the euronews.com website: "We were very (13) _____ I'd say, because not only is there a good (14) _____ of bone remains, but they are also disposed of in (15) _____ at the bottom of the crypt, with a plate indicating they (16) _____ to the Gioconda family."

amount

order

alike

fantasy

belong

constant

lucky

various

LISTENING – **Guess the answers. Listen to check**

1) the woman who modelled for Leonardo _____
   a. da Vinci's master piece
   b. da Vinci's masterpiece
   c. da Vinci's master peace
   d. da Vinci's master's piece

2) They believe they will find the skeleton of _____ Lisa Gioconda
   a. da Vinci's muse
   b. da Vinci's museum
   c. da Vinci's musician
   d. da Vinci's news

3) head of Italy's National Committee for the Promotion of Historic _____
   a. and Culturally Heritage
   b. and Cultural Hermitage
   c. and Cultural Heritage
   d. and Culturally Hermitage

4) determine whether or not Ms Gioconda is the woman behind that _____
   a. famous, enigma smile
   b. famous, enigmatic smile
   c. famous, enigmatically smile
   d. famous, enigmatic smiling

5) use a computer graphics program to generate a face _____
   a. from the skill
   b. from the skulls
   c. from a skull
   d. from the skull

6) a constant source of fascination for art experts and _____
   a. ordinary folk a like
   b. ordinary folk likes
   c. ordinary folk likely
   d. ordinary folk alike

7) For centuries, historians the world over have been coming up _____
   a. with variety theories
   b. with various theories
   c. with varied theories
   d. with various theory

8) Or is it just a construction of the _____?
   a. painter's fantasies
   b. painter's fantasise
   c. painter's fantasy
   d. painter's fantastic

9) We were very lucky I'd say, because not only is there a good amount _____ …
   a. of bone remain
   b. of bone remaining
   c. of bone remains
   d. of bone remainders

10) they are also disposed of in order at the _____
   a. bottom of the crypt
   b. bottom of the cryptic
   c. bottom of the clipped
   d. bottom of the chipped

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

Scientists say they are close (1) _____ remains of the woman who modelled for Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece the Mona Lisa. Researchers have opened a (2) _____ in the Italian city of Florence. They believe they will (3) _____ of da Vinci's muse Lisa Gioconda, the wife of a 16th-century silk merchant. Silvano Vinceti, head of Italy's National Committee for the Promotion of Historic and Cultural Heritage, (4) _____ DNA of the bones under the church to determine whether or not Ms Gioconda is the woman behind that (5) _____. Mr Vinceti will then use a computer graphics program to generate a face from the skull (6) _____ the painting.

Leonardo da Vinci's painting has been (7) _____ fascination for art experts and (8) _____. Vinceti said: "For centuries, historians the world over have been (9) _____ various theories about who this enigmatic, mysterious woman could have been." He asks: "Was Gioconda the model for the Mona Lisa? Or was it some other model, as some people say? Or is it (10) _____ of the painter's fantasy?" Antonio Moretti, a geologist from L'Aquila University told the euronews.com website: "We were very lucky I'd say, because not only is there a (11) _____ remains, but they are also disposed of in order at the bottom of the crypt, with a plate (12) _____ to the Gioconda family."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What did researchers in Florence open?

2. Who was Lisa Gioconda's husband?

3. What tests will Silvano Vinceti do?

4. What does Silvano Vinceti want to find out?

5. What will Vinceti use to create a face?

6. Who has been fascinated by the Mona Lisa?

7. For how long have historians been making theories?

8. What is Antonio Moretti's job?

9. How did Moretti describe the team's find?

10. What was on a plate in the tomb?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

1. What did researchers in Florence open?

   a) an old painting

   b) a court case

   c) a tomb

   d) a museum

2. Who was Lisa Gioconda's husband?

   a) a silk trader

   b) Leonardo da Vinci

   c) Leonardo da Vinci's rival

   d) Mozart

3. What tests will Silvano Vinceti do?

   a) exams to become an art expert

   b) DNA tests on bones

   c) chemical tests on a painting

   d) cultural and heritage tests

4. What does Silvano Vinceti want to find out?

   a) whether the painter was really Leonardo da Vinci

   b) how old the Mona Lisa is

   c) how enigmatic Mona Lisa's smile is

   d) who the model for the Mona Lisa was

5. What will Vinceti use to create a face?

   a) thousands of different photos

   b) clay

   c) a computer program

   d) his memory

6. Who has been fascinated by the Mona Lisa?

   a) women with long hair

   b) art experts and ordinary people

   c) Italians

   d) DNA testers

7. For how long have historians been making theories?

   a) 392 years

   b) decades

   c) since Florence University opened

   d) centuries

8. What is Antonio Moretti's job?

   a) he's a painting restorer

   b) he's a geologist

   c) he's a DNA tester

   d) he's a painter

9. How did Moretti describe the team's find?

   a) talented

   b) lucky

   c) hard-working

   d) exhausted

10. What was on a plate in the tomb?

    a) a family name

    b) paint

    c) a message from Leonardo da Vinci

    d) food leftovers

ROLE PLAY

Role A – Painting

You think painting is the most important art form. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their art forms. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): ballet, animation or culinary art.

Role B – Ballet

You think ballet is the most important art form. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their art forms. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): painting, animation or culinary art.

Role C – Animation

You think animation is the most important art form. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their art forms. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): ballet, painting or culinary art.

Role D – Culinary art

You think culinary art is the most important art form. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their art forms. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): ballet, animation or painting.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms … for the words 'master' and 'piece'.

master	piece

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning…?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

• close	• source
• opened	• coming
• head	• model
• test	• fantasy
• smile	• lucky
• face	• plate

THE MONA LISA SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about the Mona Lisa in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

THE MONA LISA DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

a)   What did you think when you read the headline?

b)   What springs to mind when you hear the word 'artist'?

c)   What do you think of the Mona Lisa?

d)   Why is it important to know who the model was?

e)   Why do so many people like the Mona Lisa?

f)   Why are some people good at art and others aren't?

g)   Why is art important?

h)   What kind of art do you like?

i)   Will a computer-generated face change anything about the Mona Lisa?

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THE MONA LISA DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

a)   Did you like reading this article? Why/not?

b)   How important is art to you?

c)   What do you think of the Mona Lisa's smile?

d)   What's your favourite painting (and why)?

e)   Which is better, modern art or art from hundreds of years ago?

f)   Would you like to be working in the research team?

g)   What do you know about Leonardo da Vinci?

h)   Is it sad if the mystery surrounding the Mona Lisa disappears?

i)   What questions would you like to ask the head researcher?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

Scientists say they are close to finding the (1) _____ of the woman who modelled for Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece the Mona Lisa. Researchers have opened a centuries-old (2) _____ in the Italian city of Florence. They believe they will find the skeleton of da Vinci's (3) _____ Lisa Gioconda, the wife of a 16th-century silk (4) _____. Silvano Vinceti, head of Italy's National Committee for the Promotion of Historic and Cultural Heritage, plans to test the DNA of the bones under the church to (5) _____ whether or not Ms Gioconda is the woman behind that famous, enigmatic smile. Mr Vinceti will then use a computer graphics program to generate a face from the (6) _____ and compare it to the painting.

Leonardo da Vinci's painting has been a constant source of (7) _____ for art experts and ordinary folk alike. Vinceti said: "For centuries, historians the world (8) _____ have been coming up with (9) _____ theories about who this enigmatic, mysterious woman could have been." He asks: "Was Gioconda the model for the Mona Lisa? Or was it some other model, as some people say? Or is it just a construction of the painter's (10) _____?" Antonio Moretti, a geologist from L'Aquila University told the euronews.com website: "We were very lucky I'd say, because not only is there a good amount of bone remains, but they are also disposed (11) _____ in order at the bottom of the crypt, with a plate (12) _____ they belong to the Gioconda family."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

1.	(a)	remains	(b)	remainders	(c)	remainder	(d)	remaining
2.	(a)	comb	(b)	bomb	(c)	tomb	(d)	womb
3.	(a)	amuse	(b)	mosaic	(c)	muse	(d)	moose
4.	(a)	enchant	(b)	penchant	(c)	disenchant	(d)	merchant
5.	(a)	preserve	(b)	infiltrate	(c)	determine	(d)	reside
6.	(a)	forehead	(b)	skull	(c)	scalp	(d)	nut
7.	(a)	fascinate	(b)	fascination	(c)	fascinating	(d)	fascinated
8.	(a)	under	(b)	over	(c)	along	(d)	across
9.	(a)	varieties	(b)	vary	(c)	various	(d)	varies
10.	(a)	fantasised	(b)	fantastic	(c)	fantastical	(d)	fantasy
11.	(a)	if	(b)	for	(c)	from	(d)	of
12.	(a)	indicated	(b)	indicates	(c)	indication	(d)	indicating

SPELLING

Paragraph 1

1.   finding the <u>mraeisn</u> of the woman

2.   opened a centuries-old <u>btom</u>

3.   the skeleton of da Vinci's <u>uesm</u>

4.   a 16th-century silk <u>nrctmahe</u>

5.   the promotion of historic and cultural <u>retegiah</u>

6.   <u>gimineact</u> smile

Paragraph 2

7.   a constant <u>crseou</u> of fascination

8.   coming up with various <u>esohreti</u>

9.   the painter's <u>ataysnf</u>

10.   a <u>ggiosetlo</u> from L'Aquila University

11.   <u>eosdidps</u> of in order

12.   at the bottom of the <u>ptyrc</u>

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

(   )   program to generate a face from the skull and compare it to the painting.

(   )   silk merchant. Silvano Vinceti, head of Italy's National Committee for the Promotion of Historic and Cultural Heritage, plans

(*1*)   Scientists say they are close to finding the remains of the woman who modelled for Leonardo da Vinci's

(   )   folk alike. Vinceti said: "For centuries, historians the world over have been coming up with various

(   )   for the Mona Lisa? Or was it some other model, as some people say? Or is it just a construction of the painter's

(   )   of in order at the bottom of the crypt, with a plate indicating they belong to the Gioconda family."

(   )   masterpiece the Mona Lisa. Researchers have opened a centuries-old tomb in the Italian

(   )   to test the DNA of the bones under the church to determine whether or not Ms Gioconda

(   )   fantasy?" Antonio Moretti, a geologist from L'Aquila University told the euronews.com website: "We were very

(   )   is the woman behind that famous, enigmatic smile. Mr Vinceti will then use a computer graphics

(   )   theories about who this enigmatic, mysterious woman could have been." He asks: "Was Gioconda the model

(   )   city of Florence. They believe they will find the skeleton of da Vinci's muse Lisa Gioconda, the wife of a 16th-century

(   )   lucky I'd say, because not only is there a good amount of bone remains, but they are also disposed

(   )   Leonardo da Vinci's painting has been a constant source of fascination for art experts and ordinary

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

1. the   woman   finding   the   to   of   Close   remains.

   _____

2. a   centuries   Researchers   -   have   old   opened   tomb.

   _____

3. the   Test   of   under   DNA   bones   church   the   the.

   _____

4. that   famous   The   ,   woman   enigmatic   behind   smile.

   _____

5. a   the   compare   Generate   from   and   face   skull   it.

   _____

6. constant   fascination   art   .   source   A   experts   for   of

   _____

7. mysterious   have   Who   ,   could   enigmatic   woman   been   this.

   _____

8. of   the   painter's   fantasy   Or   is   it   just   a   construction?

   _____

9. the   bottom   of   the   crypt   Disposed   of   in   order   at.

   _____

10. plate   belong   Gioconda   A   they   the   indicating   to   family.

   _____

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

Scientists say they are close *to / at* finding the remains of the woman who modelled for Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece the Mona Lisa. Researchers have opened a *centuries-old / centuries-aged* tomb in the Italian city of Florence. They believe they will find the skeleton of da Vinci's *muse / music* Lisa Gioconda, the wife of a 16th-century silk *mercantile / merchant*. Silvano Vinceti, head of Italy's National Committee for the *Promotion / Demotion* of Historic and Cultural Heritage, plans to test the *AND / DNA* of the bones under the church to *undermine / determine* whether or not Ms Gioconda is the woman behind that famous, *enigma / enigmatic* smile. Mr Vinceti will then use a computer *graphics / graph* program to generate a face from the skull and compare it *to / from* the painting.

Leonardo da Vinci's painting has been a *constant / constantly* source of fascination for art *expats / experts* and ordinary folk *likely / alike*. Vinceti said: "For centuries, historians the world *under / over* have been coming up with various theories about who this *enigmatic / enigma*, mysterious woman could have been." He asks: "Was Gioconda the model for the Mona Lisa? Or was it some other model, *was / as* some people say? Or is it just a construction of the painter's fantasy?" Antonio Moretti, a *geology / geologist* from L'Aquila University told the euronews.com website: "We were very lucky I'd *speak / say*, because not only is there a good amount of bone remains, but they are also disposed *of / for* in order at the bottom of the crypt, with a plate indicating they belong *of / to* the Gioconda family."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130814-mona_lisa.html

Sc__nt_sts s_y th_y _r_ cl_s_ t_ f_nd_ng th_ r_m__ns _f th_ w_m_n wh_ m_d_ll_d f_r L__n_rd_ d_ V_nc_'s m_st_rp__c_ th_ M_n_ L_s_. R_s__rch_rs h_v_ _p_n_d _ c_nt_r__s-_ld t_mb _n th_ _t_l__n c_ty _f Fl_r_nc_. Th_y b_l__v_ th_y w_ll f_nd th_ sk_l_t_n _f d_ V_nc_'s m_s_ L_s_ G__c_nd_, th_ w_f_ _f _ 16th-c_nt_ry s_lk m_rch_nt. S_lv_n_ V_nc_t_, h__d _f _t_ly's N_t__n_l C_mm_tt__ f_r th_ Pr_m_t__n _f H_st_r_c _nd C_lt_r_l H_r_t_g_, pl_ns t_ t_st th_ DN_ _f th_ b_n_s _nd_r th_ ch_rch t_ d_t_rm_n_ wh_th_r _r n_t Ms G__c_nd_ _s th_ w_m_n b_h_nd th_t f_m__s, _n_gm_t_c sm_l_. Mr V_nc_t_ w_ll th_n _s_ _ c_mp_t_r gr_ph_cs pr_gr_m t_ g_n_r_t_ _ f_c_ fr_m th_ sk_ll _nd c_mp_r_ _t t_ th_ p__nt_ng.

L__n_rd_ d_ V_nc_'s p__nt_ng h_s b__n _ c_nst_nt s__rc_ _f f_sc_n_t__n f_r _rt _xp_rts _nd _rd_n_ry f_lk _l_k_. V_nc_t_ s__d: "F_r c_nt_r__s, h_st_r__ns th_ w_rld _v_r h_v_ b__n c_m_ng _p w_th v_r___s th__r__s _b__t wh_ th_s _n_gm_t_c, myst_r___s w_m_n c__ld h_v_ b__n." H_ _sks: "W_s G__c_nd_ th_ m_d_l f_r th_ M_n_ L_s_? _r w_s _t s_m_ _th_r m_d_l, _s s_m_ p__pl_ s_y? _r _s _t j_st _ c_nstr_ct__n _f th_ p__nt_r's f_nt_sy?" _nt_n__ M_r_tt_, _ g__l_g_st fr_m L'_q__l_ _n_v_rs_ty t_ld th_ __r_n_ws.c_m w_bs_t_: "W_ w_r_ v_ry l_cky _'d s_y, b_c__s_ n_t _nly _s th_r_ _ g__d _m__nt _f b_n_ r_m__ns, b_t th_y _r_ _ls_ d_sp_s_d _f _n _rd_r _t th_ b_tt_m _f th_ crypt, w_th _ pl_t_ _nd_c_t_ng th_y b_l_ng t_ th_ G__c_nd_ f_m_ly."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

scientists say they are close to finding the remains of the woman who modelled for leonardo da vinci's masterpiece the mona lisa researchers have opened a centuries-old tomb in the italian city of florence they believe they will find the skeleton of da vinci's muse lisa gioconda the wife of a 16th-century silk merchant silvano vinceti head of italy's national committee for the promotion of historic and cultural heritage plans to test the dna of the bones under the church to determine whether or not ms gioconda is the woman behind that famous enigmatic smile mr vinceti will then use a computer graphics program to generate a face from the skull and compare it to the painting

leonardo da vinci's painting has been a constant source of fascination for art experts and ordinary folk alike vinceti said "for centuries historians the world over have been coming up with various theories about who this enigmatic mysterious woman could have been" he asks "was gioconda the model for the mona lisa or was it some other model as some people say or is it just a construction of the painter's fantasy" antonio moretti a geologist from l'aquila university told the euronewscom website "we were very lucky i'd say because not only is there a good amount of bone remains but they are also disposed of in order at the bottom of the crypt with a plate indicating they belong to the gioconda family"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

Scientistssaytheyareclosetofindingtheremainsofthewomanwhomodelledfor

LeonardodaVinci'smasterpiecetheMonaLisa.Researchershaveopenedacent

uries-oldtombintheItaliancityofFlorence.Theybelievetheywillfindthesk

eletonofdaVinci'smuseLisaGioconda,thewifeofa16th-centurysilkmerc

hant.SilvanoVinceti,headofItaly'sNationalCommitteeforthePromotionofHist

oricandCulturalHeritage,planstotesttheDNAofthebonesunderthechurchtod

eterminewhetherornotMsGiocondaisthewomanbehindthatfamous,enigmati

csmile.MrVincetiwillthenuseacomputergraphicsprogramtogenerateafacefro

mtheskullandcompareittothepainting.LeonardodaVinci'spaintinghasbeena

constantsourceoffascinationforartexpertsandordinaryfolkalike.Vincetisaid:

"Forcenturies,historianstheworldoverhavebeencomingupwithvarioustheori

esaboutwhothisenigmatic,mysteriouswomancouldhavebeen."Heasks:"Wa

sGiocondathemodelfortheMonaLisa?Orwasitsomeothermodel,assomepeopl

esay?Orisitjustaconstructionofthepainter'sfantasy?"AntonioMoretti,ageolo

gistfromL'AquilaUniversitytoldtheeuronews.comwebsite:"Wewereveryluck

yI'dsay,becausenotonlyisthereagoodamountofboneremains,buttheyareals

odisposedofinorderatthebottomofthecrypt,withaplateindicatingtheybelong

totheGiocondafamily."

FREE WRITING

Write about **the Mona Lisa** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

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ACADEMIC WRITING

The Mona Lisa is the greatest painting ever.   Discuss.

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HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about the Mona Lisa. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MASTERPIECES: Make a poster about masterpieces. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. THE MONA LISA: Write a magazine article about the Mona Lisa. Include imaginary interviews with people who think it is the greatest painting ever and those who think it is average or over-rated.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to a Leonardo da Vinci. Ask him/her three questions about the Mona Lisa. Give him/her three of your opinions on it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F   b F   c T   d F   e T   f T   g F   h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

1.	remains	a.	bones
2	merchant	b.	trader
3.	determine	c.	find out
4.	enigmatic	d.	mysterious
5.	generate	e.	create
6.	fascination	f.	interest
7.	folk	g.	people
8.	coming up with	h.	thinking of
9.	disposed of	i.	thrown away
10.	indicating	j.	showing

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. A (centuries-old) tomb
2. A 16th-century silk merchant
3. DNA tests of the bones
4. If Lisa Gioconda was the Mona Lisa model
5. A computer graphics program
6. Art experts and ordinary people
7. Centuries
8. He's a geologist
9. He said the team was lucky
10. A family name

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. c   2. a   3. b   4. d   5. c   6. b   7. d   8. b   9. b   10. a

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)