

## ITALIAN RENAISSANCE ARTISTS: Who Painted That Masterpiece?

In the 15th and 16th centuries, Europe experienced a wave of new ideas and artistic accomplishments. This era would later become known as the Renaissance. The Renaissance included a revival of classical knowledge from the ancient Greeks and Romans, an increased awareness of nature, and a celebration of human potential.

**Artists focused on realistic paintings that emphasized what was distinctive about each individual or setting.**

Prosperous Italian city-states became the centers for artistic creativity. Four of the most important Italian Renaissance artists were Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, and Sandro Botticelli. Examine examples of their Renaissance masterpieces. Then complete the table on page 2.



*Prophet Joel, Sistine Chapel ceiling*

A single panel from an expansive mural on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome, painted between 1508 and 1512



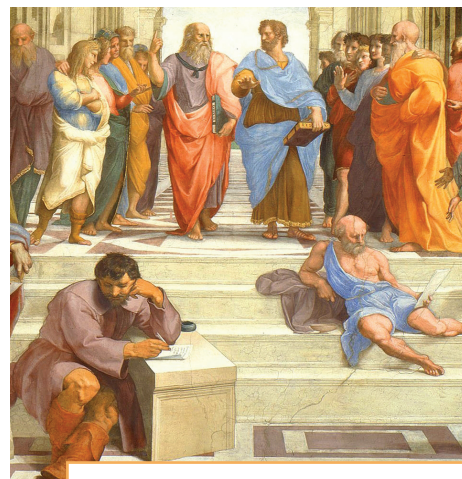
*Mona Lisa*

A single subject in a natural setting on wood panel painted between 1503 and 1506; one of the most famous portraits ever done



*Primavera (or "Springtime")*

A large panel depicting classical figures in vibrant colors, painted in the late 1470s or early 1480s (dates vary)



*The School of Athens*

One segment of a much larger work celebrating the ancient Greek philosophers, painted between 1509 and 1511

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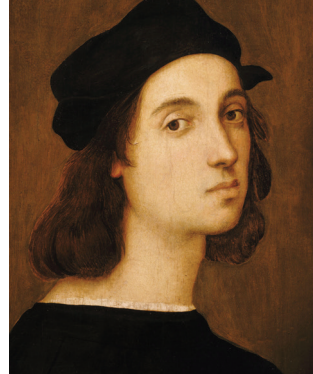
Read the descriptions of Renaissance characteristics associated with these Renaissance artists and their paintings. Then use the word bank and paintings on page 1 to match the painting associated with each statement.



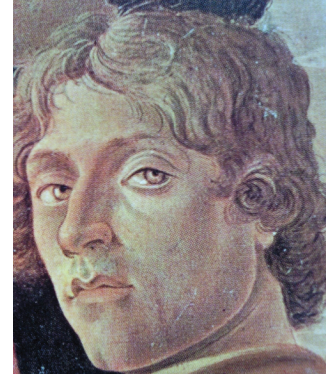
Leonardo da Vinci  
(1452 - 1519)



Michelangelo  
(1475 - 1564)



Raphael  
(1483 - 1520)



Sandro Botticelli  
(1445 - 1510)

**Word Bank:** *Prophet Joel, The School of Athens, The Mona Lisa, Primavera*

Renaissance Characteristics	Artist	Painting
The artist used a natural landscape to frame his subject, whose mysterious facial expression makes it hard to look away.	Leonardo da Vinci	
The artist painted a scene with realistic, three-dimensional shapes and figures, focusing on an individual posed as if he were about to move.	Michelangelo	
The artist celebrated ancient Greek and Roman philosophers and relied on newly discovered artistic methods such as linear perspective and a vanishing point to emphasize the depth in his painting.	Raphael	
The artist used vibrant colors to create idealized, almost angelic, figures from classical mythology in a garden setting celebrating spring.	Sandro Botticelli	