The *Mona Lisa* might be the most recognized painting in the world. I was able to see it in person at the Louvre (pronounced "loove") Museum in Paris, France. When I first saw it, I was surprised by how small the portrait is. I was disappointed because I was not able to get a close look at it. A glass enclosure and a heavily guarded barrier protect it. You can only enjoy the painting from a couple feet away.

The man who painted the famous *Mona Lisa* was Leonardo da Vinci, an Italian artist born in the 15th century. Da Vinci was interested in many different fields. He studied art, medicine, and flight. He also invented a few things. Some people consider him a genius. Da Vinci is probably best known for his paintings. His depiction of Jesus Christ in *The Last Supper* is also very well known. It took Leonardo da Vinci 3 years to paint *The Last Supper*. Now that’s dedication.
1. How long did it take Leonardo da Vinci to paint The Last Supper?
   a. one weekend.
   b. one year.
   c. three years.
   d. ten years.

2. Why does the author describe how the Mona Lisa is displayed at the museum?
   a. to show how famous a work it is
   b. to illustrate how strict the rules are at museums
   c. to describe how her trip to Paris went
   d. to explain how all art is displayed in museums

3. Which detail from the passage shows that the Mona Lisa is very valuable?
   a. The author was disappointed by not being able to get closer to it.
   b. It is in a glass enclosure with a heavily guarded barrier.
   c. The author was surprised by how small it is.
   d. Da Vinci studied many other things besides painting.

4. Read the following sentences: “A glass enclosure and a heavily guarded barrier protect it. You can only enjoy the painting from a couple feet away.”
   The word enclosure means
   a. a closed-off area
   b. a person who protects something
   c. an art sculpture
   d. an award or trophy

5. This passage is mostly about
   a. whether the Mona Lisa is the most famous painting.
   b. how Da Vinci took forever to finish a painting.
   c. Da Vinci’s career as a painter.
   d. how Da Vinci was talented at many arts and sciences.
6. What was Leonardo da Vinci interested in, other than painting?

________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

7. What evidence from the passage explains why some people consider Da Vinci a genius?

________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

The author was disappointed when he saw the *Mona Lisa* in person ________ he couldn’t get too close and the painting was small.

   a. while  
b. because  
c. although  
d. always

9. Read the following sentence.


Answer the questions below based on the information provided in the sentence you just read. One of the questions has already been answered for you.


2. What did Leonardo da Vinci do? _________________________________

3. When? _____________________________________________________

4. How? ______________________________________________________
10. **Vocabulary Word**: dedication: If someone shows dedication, it means they are working hard to do something they think is important.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: ________________________________

________________________________________________________________
Teacher Guide and Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 670

Featured Text Structure: Descriptive – the writer explains, defines or illustrates a concept or topic

Passage Summary: The *Mona Lisa* is one of the most famous paintings in the world. It was painted by Leonardo da Vinci, an Italian artist born in the 15th century, who also studied medicine and flight.

1. How long did it take Leonardo da Vinci to paint *The Last Supper*?
   a. one weekend.
   b. one year.
   c. three years.
   d. ten years.

2. Why does the author describe how the *Mona Lisa* is displayed at the museum?
   a. to show how famous a work it is
   b. to illustrate how strict the rules are at museums
   c. to describe how her trip to Paris went
   d. to explain how all art is displayed in museums

3. Which detail from the passage shows that the *Mona Lisa* is very valuable?
   a. The author was disappointed by not being able to get closer to it.
   b. *It is in a glass enclosure with a heavily guarded barrier.*
   c. The author was surprised by how small it is.
   d. Da Vinci studied many other things besides painting.

4. Read the following sentences: “A glass enclosure and a heavily guarded barrier protect it. You can only enjoy the painting from a couple feet away.”

The word *enclosure* means
   a. a closed-off area
   b. a person who protects something
   c. an art sculpture
   d. an award or trophy
5. This passage is mostly about
   a. whether the *Mona Lisa* is the most famous painting.
   b. how Da Vinci took forever to finish a painting.
   c. *Da Vinci’s career as a painter*.
   d. how Da Vinci was talented at many arts and sciences.

6. What was Leonardo da Vinci interested in, other than painting?
   
   **Suggested answer:** Other than painting, Leonardo da Vinci was interested in medicine and flight.

7. What evidence from the passage explains why some people consider Da Vinci a genius?
   
   **Suggested answer:** Answers will vary, but should include that he painted very famous paintings or that he studied and invented many things.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

   The author was disappointed when he saw the *Mona Lisa* in person _________.
   he couldn't get too close and the painting was small.
   
   a. while
   b. because
   c. although
   d. always

9. Read the following sentence.

   **Leonardo da Vinci painted the *Mona Lisa* in 1505 using oil paint.**

   Answer the questions below based on the information provided in the sentence you just read. One of the questions has already been answered for you.

   2. What did Leonardo da Vinci do? painted the *Mona Lisa*
3. When? **in 1505**

4. How? **using oil paint**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** dedication: if someone shows dedication, it means they are working hard to do something they think is important.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.