

16th Century Superstar

Da Vinci



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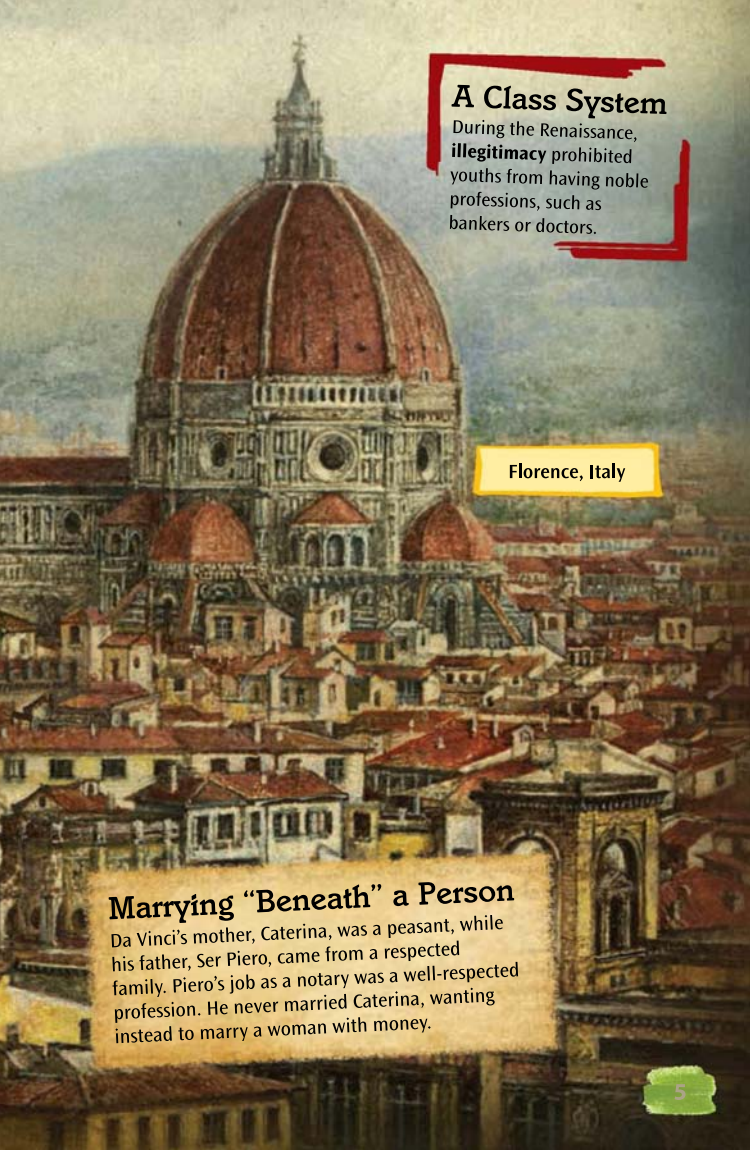
A Superstar Is Born

Every now and then, a superstar comes along and the world takes notice. By definition, superstars stand out. This is certainly true of Leonardo da Vinci. He was born in Vinci, Italy, in 1452. Had his mother not been a peasant, things might have turned out differently for da Vinci. He most likely would have attended the university in Florence and studied to be a notary like his well-to-do father. Instead of painting and inventing ways to solve problems, his days would have been busy filling out legal documents.



But his parents never married. So the guild of the magistrates and notaries would not accept da Vinci as an apprentice. Instead, his father had to look for another profession for him. As a young child, da Vinci showed a talent for drawing. So his father sent him to Florence to become an apprentice to the famous artist, Andrea del Verrocchio. And that is where the road to superstardom began for da Vinci.

Da Vinci was continually striving to improve and perfect his work and the world around him. Along the path to becoming a superstar, da Vinci came into contact with many different types of people. They played important roles in his life as he developed not only as an artist but also as a scientist and inventor.



A Class System

During the Renaissance, **illegitimacy** prohibited youths from having noble professions, such as bankers or doctors.

Florence, Italy

Marrying “Beneath” a Person

Da Vinci's mother, Caterina, was a peasant, while his father, Ser Piero, came from a respected family. Piero's job as a notary was a well-respected profession. He never married Caterina, wanting instead to marry a woman with money.

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