

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Mysterious Smile: Unraveling the Secrets of the Mona Lisa

### Short Answer Key

1. The "Mona Lisa effect" is when the subject's eyes seem to follow you no matter where you stand. This effect is created through Leonardo's expert use of perspective and the way he painted the eyes with a slight blur to make them seem alive.
2. The landscape in the Mona Lisa includes a winding river, distant mountains, and a bridge. Leonardo's use of atmospheric perspective, where distant objects appear hazier and lighter, adds depth to the painting.
3. The true identity of the woman in the Mona Lisa is still debated because there is no definitive historical evidence confirming that it is Lisa Gherardini.
4. Leonardo da Vinci used layers of thin glazes to achieve the soft transitions of color in the skin, a technique known as chiaroscuro. The blending of colors and the use of shadows and highlights create a lifelike quality in the painting.
5. The Mona Lisa is historically significant because it represents the Italian Renaissance, a period of great cultural and artistic achievement.

