Name Class Period Date

Da Vinci & The Code He Lived By

1. What is humanism? When did this philosophy arise? Why were Leonardo’s innovations able to flourish during this era?
2. Describe Leonardo’s childhood. Which specific aspects of his childhood do you think might have had the greatest impact on his life?
3. Many Renaissance artists and craftsman began their careers as apprentices in the workshops of masters. In which studio did Leonardo work? What was his master’s reputation? How do you think this apprenticeship shaped his career?
4. How did Leonardo contribute to “The Baptism of Christ”? Why did his work on this painting stand out? What was the impact of his work on this painting?
5. Leonardo wrote, “Only through experimentation can we truly know anything.” Give specific examples that illustrate how Leonardo followed this philosophy.
6. During the Renaissance, the Medici family dominated political life in Florence. How did Lorenzo Medici come to power? How did the Pazzi family threaten his power? How might Leonardo have been influenced by the political situation that surrounded him?
7. How did Florence escape “annihilation” in 1479? What role did Lorenzo play in preserving Florence? Why was his tactic dangerous?
8. Leonardo was commissioned to paint a traditional scene in the “Adoration of the Magi” for the monastery at San Donato a Scopeto. How did his painting differ from traditional renditions of this scene? Why didn’t he finish this work?
9. Why did Leonardo move to Milan? What were some of the military ideas that he presented to Ludovico Sforza, the Duke of Milan? Why might Leonardo’s military engineering skills appeal to Sforza?
10. Compare and contrast Leonardo’s portraits “Lady with the Ermine” and “Mona Lisa.” What are their similarities and differences? How did Leonardo show emotion in the faces of these women?
11. Describe the scene of “The Last Supper” painted by Leonardo in the church of Santa Maria Della Grazie in Milan. How did Leonardo incorporate his scientific studies into this painting? Why did the painting deteriorate so quickly?
12. Why were Leonardo and Michelangelo such fierce rivals? How does Leonardo describe Michelangelo? Why did he describe him this way? Do you think that this is an accurate description? Why or why not?
13. How did Leonardo use the technique of sfumato in the “Mona Lisa”? What did this technique allow Leonardo to convey in this mysterious work?
14. In your opinion, what was Leonardo’s greatest scientific accomplishment? Describe this accomplishment and explain why you think that it had the greatest impact on our knowledge and understanding of science.
15. Describe the “code” that Leonardo lived by. How was it played out in painting? Science? Engineering ? Use specific examples. How did this code contribute to his legacy