

8th May 2023

The *Mona Lisa* has one less mystery today thanks to an Italian art expert. The bridge in the background of the painting has been **located** in real life. The expert, Silvano Vinceti, has matched it to the remaining part of a bridge in the countryside of Tuscany, Italy. His **theory** may end an academic argument that has been going on for years. At a press meeting in Rome, Vinceti announced his conclusions. The expert has made historical analysis of the famous portrait his main work throughout life. The bridge in the painting, just over the shoulder of the woman, has four gaps in it. Vinceti measured the surviving single gap in the real bridge, the Romito, and found that four similar gaps would fit **perfectly** across the river Arno. Through research, Vinceti determined that the bridge did have a function once. The *Mona Lisa* was painted between 1503 and 1519. Da Vinci would have used the bridge to visit his uncle in the town of Laterina at that time, Vinceti claims. The **current** mayor of Laterina says there is a lot of **excitement** over the expert's suggestion. She says there is a lot of interest the town now and the town is certain to protect the monument.

Q1. _____

Connect the two topics geography and art with the word discovery.

Think of two adjectives for the noun *mystery*, one positive and one negative. Share your answers with the group.

Q2. _____

Which bolded words in the text mean: *fully – idea – behind – results – use – present – found – existing – joy – painting*

Q3. _____

Which word below doesn't belong?

protect – conclusion – analysis – measure

Q4. _____

True or false:

1. The Italian expert is building a model of the bridge.
2. Experts were already talking about the painting's bridge.
3. Only a quarter of the Romito is still in place.
4. The bridge was never completed.
5. The town's mayor is worried about the news.

Q5. _____

Link the five synonym pairs:

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. protect | A. puzzle |
| 2. single | B. find out |
| 3. mystery | C. one |
| 4. survive | D. continue |
| 5. determine | E. save |

Q6. _____

Spell the words correctly:

y s y m r e t

m g e i r a n i n

i l t s h i r c o a

f e t y e p c r l

c x t m e i e t n e

Q7. _____

Discussion questions / Writing practice:

Have you ever been to a place that was featured in a book, a film, some art, or the news?

What do artists get inspiration from?

What types of buildings are most interesting to you and why?

Q8. _____

10 B1 lesson keywords: underlined in text.