

Historical bridge discovered from the *Mona Lisa*

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.

Warm-up activities and vocabulary

Activities:

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

Starting with the word *history*, make a chain of words where each word connects in meaning to the previous word it is chained to.

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

Vocabulary:

1. Scan the text and find a word or phrase that means:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| A. <i>behind</i> (paragraph 1) | b... |
| B. <i>found</i> (paragraph 1) | l... |
| C. <i>idea</i> (paragraph 1) | t... |
| D. <i>results</i> (paragraph 2) | c... |
| E. <i>painting</i> (paragraph 2) | p... |
| F. <i>existing</i> (paragraph 2) | s... |
| G. <i>fully</i> (paragraph 2) | p... |
| H. <i>use</i> (paragraph 3) | f... |
| I. <i>present</i> (paragraph 3) | c... |
| J. <i>joy</i> (paragraph 3) | e... |

2. What does the italicised phrase below mean – *inside*, *stoney*, or *existing*?

the *remaining* part of a bridge

3. Which word below doesn't belong?

protect – determine – analysis – measure

Reading comprehension true or false

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.

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. The Italian expert is building a model of the bridge. | T / F |
| 2. The remaining parts of the bridge are being repaired. | T / F |
| 3. Experts were already talking about the painting's bridge. | T / F |
| 4. The discovery was made in Rome. | T / F |
| 5. Vinceti has spent a long time studying the <i>Mona Lisa</i> . | T / F |
| 6. The bridge in the painting is close to the woman. | T / F |
| 7. Only a quarter of the Romito is still in place. | T / F |
| 8. The bridge was never completed. | T / F |
| 9. The town's mayor is worried about the news. | T / F |
| 10. The town will finish rebuilding the bridge. | T / F |

Phrases, synonyms, and antonyms match-up

Match the words on the left to their endings to make phrases from the text.

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. fit | A. meeting |
| 2. the expert's | B. analysis |
| 3. famous | C. argument |
| 4. current | D. perfectly |
| 5. press | E. gap |
| 6. single | F. portrait |
| 7. historical | G. interest |
| 8. protect the | H. suggestion |
| 9. academic | I. monument |
| 10. a lot of | J. mayor |

Match the words on the left from the text to their synonyms.

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

Match the words on the left from the text to their antonyms.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------|
| 1. locate | A. lose |
| 2. countryside | B. modern |
| 3. historic | C. city |

Grammar gap-fill cloze: articles after prepositions

For each answer, use one of the four following: *a*, *an*, *the*, or the *zero article*.

The *Mona Lisa* has one less mystery today thanks to 1._____ Italian art expert. The bridge in 2._____ background of 3._____ painting has been located in 4._____ real life. The expert, Silvano Vinceti, has matched it to the remaining part of 5._____ bridge in the countryside of 6._____ Tuscany, Italy. His theory may end an academic argument that has been going on for 7._____ years.

At 8._____ press meeting in 9._____ Rome, Vinceti announced his conclusions. The expert has made historical analysis of the famous portrait his main work throughout 10._____ life. The bridge in 11._____ painting, just over 12._____ shoulder of the woman, has four gaps in it. Vinceti measured the surviving single gap in 13._____ real bridge, the Romito, and found that four similar gaps would fit perfectly across 14._____ river Arno.

Through 15._____ research, Vinceti determined that the bridge did have a function once. The *Mona Lisa* was painted between 16._____ 1503 and 1519. Da Vinci would have used the bridge to visit his uncle in the town of 17._____ Laterina at that time, Vinceti claims. The current mayor of Laterina says there is a lot of 18._____ excitement over 19._____ expert's suggestion. She says there is a lot of 20._____ interest the town now and the town is certain to protect the monument.

Vocabulary multiple-choice cloze

The *Mona Lisa* has one less 1._____ today thanks to an Italian art expert. The bridge in the 2._____ of the painting has been located in real life. The expert, Silvano Vinceti, has matched it to the 3._____ 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 4._____. The expert has made 5._____ analysis of the famous 6._____ 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 7._____ 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 8._____ 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 9._____ over the expert's suggestion. She says there is a lot of interest the town now and the town is certain to 10._____ the monument.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. A. mystery | B. conclusion | C. fact | D. strange |
| 2. A. represent | B. front | C. background | D. colours |
| 3. A. bone | B. stone | C. remaining | D. remade |
| 4. A. conclude | B. services | C. service | D. conclusions |
| 5. A. history | B. historical | C. require | D. required |
| 6. A. portrait | B. poster | C. perfect | D. project |
| 7. A. survive | B. survives | C. survived | D. surviving |
| 8. A. function | B. theory | C. business | D. reporter |
| 9. A. sadness | B. excitement | C. stress | D. doubt |
| 10. A. protect | B. locate | C. identify | D. compare |

Writing cloze

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. ysymret | 6. nscoucoslin | 11.uofnitnc |
| 2. gckubardno | 7. iltshircoa | 12.lsiacm |
| 3. oceadtI | 8. roatrtpi | 13.cxtmeietne |
| 4. mgeiranin | 9. uirvigsvn | 14.tneriets |
| 5. rutemnga | 10.fetyepcrl | 15.rotetpc |

The *Mona Lisa* has one less 1._____ today thanks to an Italian art expert. The bridge in the 2._____ of the painting has been 3._____ in real life. The expert, Silvano Vinceti, has matched it to the 4._____ part of a bridge in the countryside of Tuscany, Italy. His theory may end an academic 5._____ that has been going on for years.

At a press meeting in Rome, Vinceti announced his 6._____. The expert has made 7._____ analysis of the famous 8._____ 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 9._____ single gap in the real bridge, the Romito, and found that four similar gaps would fit 10._____ across the river Arno.

Through research, Vinceti determined that the bridge did have a 11._____ 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 12._____. The current mayor of Laterina says there is a lot of 13._____ over the expert's suggestion. She says there is a lot of 14._____ the town now and the town is certain to 15._____ the monument.

Fill-in punctuation

The text below is missing its capital letters, commas, full stops, and an apostrophe.

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 experts suggestion she says there is a lot of interest the town now and the town is certain to protect the monument

Cool-down discussion, keywords, and game

Discussion questions:

- Have you ever been to a place that was featured in a book, a film, some art, or the news?
- Is there a famous local landmark where you live?
- What do artists get inspiration from?
- What types of buildings are most interesting to you and why?
- What would happen if we didn't try to protect things from history?

CEFR B1 10 lesson keywords:

Adjectives: historical

Nouns: background, conclusion, excitement, function, mystery, portrait

Verbs: protect, remain, survive

Game:

Scattergories. In the table below, add one word to each box that matches both the beginning letter and the category, e.g. something in a museum beginning with *R* is *relics*.

	R	E	A	L
Something in a museum				
An artist				
A European city				
A river				
A synonym for old				

Answers

Page 2 Warm-up activities and vocabulary

1. A. background, B. located, C. theory, D. conclusions, E. portrait, F. surviving, G. perfectly, H. function, I. current, J. excitement
2. parts
3. protect

Page 3 Reading comprehension true or false

1F, 2F, 3T, 4F, 5T, 6T, 7T, 8F, 9F, 10F

Page 4 Phrases, synonyms, and antonyms match-up

Phrases 1D, 2H, 3F, 4J, 5A, 6E, 7B, 8I, 9C, 10G
Synonyms 1E, 2C, 3A, 4D, 5B
Antonyms 1A, 2C, 3B

Page 5 Grammar pairs cloze: articles after prepositions

1. an, 2. the, 3. the, 4. -, 5. a, 6. -, 7. -, 8. a, 9. -, 10. -,
11. the, 12. the, 13. the, 14. the, 15. -, 16. -, 17. -, 18. -, 19. the, 20. -

Page 6 Vocabulary gap-fill cloze

1A, 2C, 3C, 4D, 5B, 6A, 7D, 8A, 9B, 10A

Page 7 Writing cloze

1. mystery, 2. background, 3. located, 4. remaining, 5. argument,
6. conclusions, 7. historical, 8. portrait, 9. surviving, 10. perfectly, 11. function,
12. claims, 13. excitement, 14. interest, 15. protect

For this lesson's interactive exercises, visit:

<https://www.everybitenglish.com/online-exercises-20230508-b1-mona-lisa>

Thanks for using this lesson!