

## Historical bridge discovered from the *Mona Lisa*

### A2+/B1 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. True / False
2. The remaining parts of the bridge are being repaired. True / False
3. Experts were already talking about the painting's bridge. True / False
4. The discovery was made in Rome. True / False
5. Vinceti has spent a long time studying the *Mona Lisa*. True / False
6. The bridge in the painting is close to the woman. True / False
7. Only a quarter of the Romito is still in place. True / False
8. The bridge was never completed. True / False
9. The town's mayor is worried about the news. True / False
10. The town will finish rebuilding the bridge. True / False

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#### Answers

1. False
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. True
6. True
7. True
8. False
9. False
10. False

Full lesson with interactive exercises at:

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