

# Kindergarten Art

A Distance Learning Course

Art History: Renaissance

## Supplies for Michelangelo Project

- Artist Notebook
- Art “His” Story - page 5
- Crayons or colored pencils
- White Drawing Paper
- Tape
- Pencil



Gather the supplies at your work area  
**BEFORE** you begin the art project.



## Works of Michelangelo



• Michelangelo's *Pieta*, a depiction of the body of Jesus on the lap of his mother Mary after the Crucifixion, was carved in 1499, when the sculptor was 24 years old. This sculpture is made out of marble and is 68.5 inches by 76.8 inches. It is located in St. Peter's Basilica.

• The *Statue of David*, completed by Michelangelo in 1504, is one of the most renowned works of the Renaissance. It stands 17 feet tall and made of solid marble, a type of rock. Michelangelo received the commission, or job, at the age of 24 years old and finished the statue 3 years later.



• This is a detail, or part, of the fresco painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel entitled *The Creation of Adam*. Michelangelo



## Ceiling of the Sistine Chapel



Michelangelo's work took approximately four years to complete (1508–1512). The composition contains over 300 figures and at its center nine episodes from the Book of Genesis in the Bible. Among the most famous paintings on the ceiling are the Creation of Adam, Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, the Great Flood, and the Prophet Isaiah. Around the windows are painted the ancestors of Christ. We celebrate his dedication and endurance to work hard for a long period of time.

## Drawing on the Ceiling

Now you get a chance to draw like Michelangelo!

1. First, tape a piece of paper on the bottom side of a table or chair.
2. Then, put your drawing supplies on the floor underneath the taped drawing paper.
3. Lay down on your back and with a pencil, draw your favorite bible story. Don't worry if your drawing looks funny. This activity is fun, but challenging!
4. Take some crayons and color your picture while you are still laying down.

How do you feel drawing upside-down?  
How does your arm feel?

Now imagine painting in that position day after day for four years! Michelangelo is truly amazing!

**GREAT JOB!**

## Clean – Up Work Area

1. Take all tape off your drawing and furniture.
2. Put all art tools and supplies away.
3. Display Artwork or put in Artist Notebook.
4. Wipe off work area with a damp cloth if needed.

**GOOD STEWARDSHIP!**

**MICHELANGELO BUONARROTI**  
**NATIONALITY: ITALIAN**  
**STYLE: ITALIAN RENAISSANCE**  
**1475-1564**

Michelangelo was born near Arezzo, Italy on March 6, 1475. He was a moody boy but showed artistic talent early. At age thirteen he learned the traditional painting and sculpture techniques from the painter Domenico Ghirlandaio and the sculptor Bertoldo di Giovanni. From ages fifteen to seventeen he went to live with the noted art patron and ruler of Florence, Lorenzo de' Medici. There he was surrounded by a collection of classical works of art and was able to talk with leading philosophers and poets of the day. When Lorenzo died, Michelangelo went to Venice and Rome. He studied anatomy and learned the structure of the human body.

At age twenty-four he finished his first sculpture, The Pieta, a sweet and tender statue of the Virgin Mary holding her dead son, Jesus. At age twenty-nine he completed his powerful and famous statue "David", as a symbol of the proud independence of the Florentine Republic, whose existence was being threatened by more powerful states.

Throughout most of Michelangelo's life, he worked for strong rulers who forced him to work against his own ideals and wishes. His great love was sculpture but he was commanded to paint much of the time. He was saddened by the wickedness of the leaders which often was reflected in his work. He was summoned by Pope Julius II to go to Rome to create sculptures for his tomb. He was so pleased and spent one year finding good blocks of marble, but the Pope changed his mind and had him paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel instead. Michelangelo fled to Florence in 1506 to get away from the task but Julius begged and threatened until he returned in 1508. He labored for four years on a picture cycle devoted to the biblical story of humanity. It was a super human effort to paint the ceiling and it is called "the greatest single handed work of art that man has ever produced".

At age fifty-seven, Michelangelo was given the task of painting an immense painting for the main altar of the Sistine Chapel. It took him seven years to complete the large fresco, "The Last Judgement". Michelangelo's last commission was to be architect for the magnificent Church of St. Peter in Rome but he died before it was completed.

Michelangelo is referred to as "the greatest artistic genius who ever lived." He was a sculptor, painter, architect and poet. He was a religious man and saw art as a sacred calling through which the dignity of human beings should be enhanced.

## MORE INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT MICHELANGELO...

- Michelangelo was the most famous artist of the Western civilization and the supreme Renaissance artist.
- He created many outstanding works of art such as painting, sculpture, and architecture and he left numerous letters and poems.
- He was a master at sculpture and he loved it.
- Michelangelo, was a passionate, proud, and independent man. He thought art was his sacred calling. He felt his art had failed to reflect the true nature of his subjects. No matter how good his art work was, he thought it could be more perfect.
- He considered the human body a divine creation, and made most of his figures mighty beings with exaggerated gestures so they would be more powerful and larger than in nature.
- Michelangelo was a very religious person and he was disappointed with the corrupt practices of his day. This attitude showed up in his artistic works.
- Michelangelo above all was a carver of marble. His ability as a sculptor has remained unsurpassed. His statues “The Pieta” and “David”, are unmatched even by his later works.
- The ceiling of the Sistine Chapel contains nine large frescos illustrating events from the Book of Genesis. The most magnificent is the creation of Adam. During his work on the Sistine ceiling, Michelangelo realized the potential of the high Renaissance style of painting.
- Three historical events upset Michelangelo and had an effect on his works. These were: the breakup of the Roman Church after 1517; the terrible sack of Rome by the troops of the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V in 1527; and the final crushing of the Florentine Republic in 1530. A change came over Michelangelo’s outlook which showed up in his architectural design of the Medici Chapel in Florence (1519-1534). The squeezed niches and crowded windows, are unlike his earlier clear and rationalistic designs.
- Michelangelo did many study drawings for the Sistine Chapel. He would draw small details of each figure over and over again to reproduce perfect human bodies in his paintings.