Project

The Human Body in Art

Leonardo was one of several Renaissance artists who dissected human corpses. Why did they do that? To better understand the form and function of the human body, which they believed was created in the image of God. To them, the human body—inside and out—was a work of wonder.

Leonardo, anatomical sketches

- **How do we feel about the human body today?** Do you know of any modern artists who glorify the human body in their art? Do you see many images of the human body in popular culture? If so, what kind of images do you see? What do they suggest about how we think about the human form?

- **Leonardo made some of the most accurate drawings of human anatomy of all time.** Choose one external human body part—an ear, a hand, a foot, for example—and make the most accurate drawing of it that you can. Use your own body as a model, or work with a partner. If you prefer to write rather than draw, create a written description instead.

- **Which body part did you choose, and why?** How hard was it to get the details right? What did you learn about that part of the body by having to study it so closely? Does a careful examination of the human body change your feelings about it? Why or why not?

CONNECT

PS

Train your hand to draw what you see with a lesson on contour drawing.

easy way contour drawing