Neo Leo

RIF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR EDUCATORS

THINK-TAC-TOE ACTIVITY OPTIONS

- Individual students can choose an activity to complete.
- Student pairs or cooperative groups can work together on a choice of their own.
- Educator can assign an activity for an individual, pairs, or groups.

THE DA VINCI CODE

Da Vinci used to write backwards, maybe as some kind of code. Make your own code! Replace each letter of the alphabet with a number or symbol. Make a key for yourself and write out a message for a friend. Can they crack your code? Give them a hint!

Math, Writing

SIMPLY MARVELOUS

Da Vinci built "robots" out of simple machines. What are the six main simple machines and how do they work? Research to find out and think of a creative way to share with the class. Make a simple machine children's book, write a song, put on a puppet show, etc.

Engineering, Science, Writing

INVENTORS IN-DEPTH

Pick one of the other inventors in the book and research to find out more about them. Where did they live? What did they do? Did they make other inventions? Share your information with the class in a PowerPoint or on a poster. Include pictures.

Social Studies, Science, Technology

TIMING IS EVERYTHING

Da Vinci died in 1519, but people are still using his ideas hundreds of years later. Pick six inventions from the book. How many years after da Vinci died was each one invented? Make a timeline, putting the inventions in order from shortest time after da Vinci's death to longest. Illustrate your timeline.

Math, Art

TAKING FLIGHT

Invention involves a lot of *trial* and *error* to see which ideas work and which don't. Design three different paper airplanes. Test them to see which one flies the farthest. Record your data and observations. Make one final design using what you learned from your experiments. Explain why you chose this final design.

Engineering, Math, Science, Technology

100% NATURAL

Da Vinci found ideas for his inventions in animals and nature. Spend a few minutes watching the natural world around you. Can you think of an idea based on something in nature? Write down your idea and explain how it would work. How would it help people? Include a labeled picture of your invention.

Engineering, Science



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BUILDING A BRIDGE

The book talks about different kinds of bridges. Why doesn't a single-span bridge fall down in the middle? Make a model or draw a detailed diagram of a single-span bridge and explain in your own words how it works.

Engineering, Math

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Pretend you're da Vinci and you're magically transported to the present day. How does it feel to see so many of your ideas developed into inventions? Write a diary entry from da Vinci's perspective. What parts of modern life are most surprising for you?

Writing, Social Studies

MONA LISA SMILE

Da Vinci was an artist as well as an inventor. His painting of *Mona Lisa* is famous for the woman's expression. What do you think she was thinking about while he painted her? Write a story or draw a comic strip explaining why Mona Lisa has such an odd smile.