

Enrich: Key Figures of the Renaissance and Reformation (6-6.2)

Directions: Read the article and complete the activity below

<http://mentalfloss.com/article/30862/complete-history-teenage-mutant-ninja-turtles>

The Renaissance in Cartoons: "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles"



https://www.google.com/search?q=teenage+mutant+ninja+turtles&espv=2&biw=1340&bih=587&source=lnms&tbn=isch&sa=X&ved=0CacQ_AUoAmoVChMIhc69i8aUxqlVzNCACH3cHgCd&safe=a

The secret origin of the "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" dates back to the early 1980s in Northampton, Mass., as two artist friends, Kevin Eastman and Peter Laird, would often get together and draw comics.

One night, the two were hanging out and Laird was engrossed in one of his favorite TV shows. Eastman loved to distract his friend when he was glued to the boob tube, so he quickly sketched something to make Laird laugh: a turtle standing upright wearing a mask and carrying nunchaku. Above it, he drew a crude logo reading "Ninja Turtle."

Laird laughed and drew another, slightly different turtle. Eastman responded by drawing an image of four turtles together, each holding different weapons. Laird took it and added the words "Teenage Mutant" to the "Ninja Turtle" logo.

The next day, they decided to write a story telling the origin of these characters. Using money from a tax refund and \$1,000 from a relative, the duo printed 3,000

copies of the comic book "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" No. 1 in 1984. (A copy is now worth close to \$20,000.)

Eastman and Laird called their studio Mirage as a joke, because they had no actual studio. They worked out of their living room.

The comic quickly took off and was soon selling tens of thousands of copies.

Of all the left-field aspects involving mutated teenage turtles, perhaps the most left field is their names: Leonardo, Donatello, Michelangelo and Raphael.

When it came to naming their admittedly silly creations, Eastman and Laird first considered Asian names, because the Turtles are ninjas. But that didn't seem silly enough.

Both creators were big art-history fans, and one of them tossed out the idea of naming their heroes after famous Renaissance artists. Donatello (after the Florentine sculptor) was nearly called Bernini, in honor of the great architect and artist. Laird, however, wanted another name that ended in "o," so Donatello it was.

Leonardo - from Leonardo Da Vinci the inventor/artist
Michaelangelo - from the artist Michelangelo Buonarroti
Donatello - from the artist Donato di Niccolò di Betto Bardi
Raphael - from the artist Raphael Sanzio

ACTIVITY

Create a new Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle based on one of the following other men of the Renaissance.

- Lorenzo Medici
- Sandro Botticelli
- Machiavelli
- Johannes Kepler
- Nicolas Copernicus