

Does Knowledge Float?

For this activity you will be making a parachute based on the designs of Leonardo Da Vinci

First you will need to do some reading from Gavin Menzies' book 1434 (they same guy whose website was on the last page)

This reading is attached in the pdf below (parts 1 & 2)

I have taken the most important information from this 288 page book and shortened it to 6 pages (...This means DO NOT complain about how long it is 😊 !)

Each of the 4 "sections" of the parachute's material will be covered with information you gathered from the 1434 readings and class discussion. In the end you will have a working parachute that may prove that "Knowledge can Float" (well, at least as much as a parachute will allow it too).

After you have done all the readings you will need to read the instructions for creating the parachute- also attached in a pdf below. These pages are from Maxine Anderson's Amazing Leonardo da Vinci Inventions.

Covering the Parachute material

Part One –

On the INSIDE of the parachute "pages" you need to summarize each of the sections from the 1434 reading. This means there should be 7 sections

1. The Introduction
2. The Emperor's Ambassador
3. Columbus and his Maps
4. Leonardo da Vinci and Chinese Inventions
5. Leonardo, Di Giorgio, Taccola, and Alberti
6. China's Contribution to the Renaissance
7. Europe becomes Mistress of the World

Part Two-

On the Outside of the Parachute pages you are going to put the answers to these very simple questions below. Since these are the most "important" learning points from this assignment I want them to be the most accessible to you, to the teacher, and to anyone else who wants to look at them. (Write the question and the answer.)

- 1 What are the current beliefs about the Renaissance?
- 2 What is the book 1434's new "theory" about who "ignited" the Renaissance?
- 3 How were the Chinese best "prepared" to provide the information which started the Renaissance?
- 4 How does Leonardo's work provide a good example of the transfer of information from China?
- 5 How did Chinese maps help European Exploration?