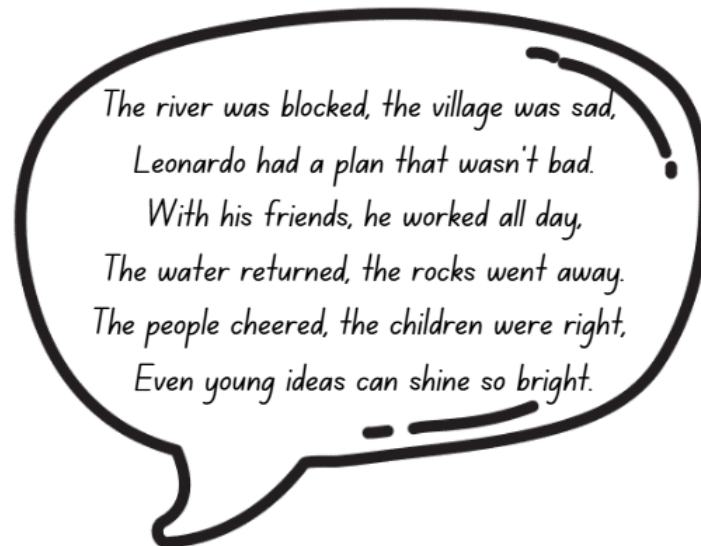


Read the poem and try to guess what the story will be about



Children have great ideas, too

In a small village near the mountains, there was a clever, brave and adventurous little child named Leonardo da Vinci. He liked to create unusual inventions, but for the adults, his passion was very stupid.

One day, the rocks broke away from the mountain and fell into the river. At first, the people didn't see the landslide, but it blocked the tiny village's river. There was a huge problem: the water couldn't reach the village. Adults were afraid and worried and everyone talked about how to remove big rocks. Leonardo thought of a plan and spoke with the adults, but they wouldn't listen to him because he was too young. After that, he called his best friends Alessandro and Tommaso and told them about his fantastic plan.

So, they went to the landslide, blocked the big rocks with a few wood branches and removed smaller stones. So the water started to go to the small village. The people were amazed but thrilled, too. "The water is starting again, but it's very little. Now it is necessary to remove big stones!" said Alessandro.

The village people tried to remove big stones, but they weren't successful. The people were sad, but Leonardo and his best friends removed the big stones with their fantastic invention: an enormous catapult. They built this invention with wood and fabric and in a few days, they removed all stones and freed the river.

Ultimately, the village had a big party to celebrate the little heroes: Leonardo, Alessandro and Tommaso. The story's moral is that listening to everyone's ideas is very important because the best ideas can come from children.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Leonardo da Vinci (April 15, 1452 – May 2, 1519) was an Italian painter, scientist, mathematician, engineer, inventor, anatomist, sculptor, architect, botanist, musician and a writer. Many people think Leonardo was one of the greatest painters ever. Others believe he was the most talented person ever to have lived. Leonardo was often thinking of new inventions. He kept notebooks with notes and drawings of these ideas. Most of his inventions were never made. His ideas included a helicopter, a tank, a calculator, a parachute, a robot, a telephone and solar power.

Leonardo was born in Vinci, a small town near Florence, Italy. He spent most of his life working for rich Italian noblemen. In his last years, he lived in a beautiful home given to him by the King of France.

Two of his pictures are among the best-known paintings in the world: the Mona Lisa and The Last Supper.

Tasks

Decide if these statements are true / false

- 1 The people in the village immediately listened to Leonardo's idea.
- 2 Leonardo's fantastic invention was an enormous catapult.
- 3 The landslide caused the village's river to flow faster.
- 4 The moral of the story is that children's ideas should never be listened to.
- 5 Leonardo da Vinci was an adult when he came up with the idea to free the river.
- 6 Leonardo da Vinci was known for his bravery and adventurous spirit as a child.
- 7 Leonardo and his friends Alessandro and Tommaso built a wooden dam to stop the landslide.
- 8 The village people were successful in removing all the big stones on their first try.
- 9 Leonardo used a catapult to remove the big stones blocking the river.
- 10 The villagers held a big party to celebrate Leonardo and his friends' success.
- 11 The river was blocked by rocks that fell from the mountain.
- 12 Leonardo's catapult was made of metal and steel.

Match each word (1–10) with its correct description (A–J).

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. ultimately | a) showing no fear of dangerous or difficult things |
| 2. branches | b) cloth or material for making clothes, covering furniture, etc. |
| 3. thrilled | c) extremely happy about something |
| 4. invention | d) willing to try new or difficult things |
| 5. fabric | e) an adverb meaning 'finally, after a series of things have happened' |
| 6. adventurous | f) needed in order to achieve a particular result |
| 7. brave | g) in a way that involves two or more people working together for a special purpose |
| 8. necessary | h) giant, big, or massive |
| 9. collaboratively | i) a group of nerves that work together for a specific purpose |
| 10. enormous | j) something that has never been made before, or the process of creating it |

Answer these questions

1. Why was there a water shortage in the village?
2. Who was the main protagonist of the story?
3. What did the villagers learn from the experience?
4. Who is Leonardo da Vinci?
5. Where was he born?
6. Explain how the catapult worked.
7. How did his best friends help him?
8. What was their strategy in freeing the river?
9. From what material did they build the catapult?
10. What is the moral of the story?

Fill in the gaps

- 1 A little boy named Leonardo lived in a small near the mountains.
- 2 Leonardo enjoyed building strange but adults didn't take him seriously.
- 3 The rocks blocked the river and stopped the from reaching the village.
- 4 The villagers were worried and didn't know how to the big rocks.
- 5 They started clearing the smaller stones and used wood to control the water flow.
- 6 The adults tried to move the bigger rocks but were not
- 7 Leonardo and his friends invented a huge to remove the rocks.
- 8 They built the invention using strong wood and some
- 9 After freeing the river, the villagers organised a big for the young heroes.
- 10 The story teaches us that can have amazing ideas that solve big problems.

Discuss these questions

- Do you think believing in yourself is important? Why?
- Why is teamwork important when solving big problems?
- Have you ever helped someone solve a problem? How did it make you feel?
- Why is it important to keep trying, even when a task seems difficult?
- Do you think small groups can sometimes be more effective than big groups? Why?

Answer Key

Match each word (1–10) with its correct description (A–J).

1. E
2. I
3. C
4. J
5. B
6. D
7. A
8. F
9. G
10. H

Decide if these statements are true / false

- 1 The people in the village immediately listened to Leonardo's idea.
False - The adults didn't listen to him because he was too young.
- 2 Leonardo's fantastic invention was an enormous catapult.
True - The story clearly mentions this invention.
- 3 The landslide caused the village's river to flow faster.
False - The landslide blocked the river, making it flow slower or stop entirely.
- 4 The moral of the story is that children's ideas should never be listened to.
False - The moral emphasises the importance of listening to children's ideas.
- 5 Leonardo da Vinci was an adult when he came up with the idea to free the river.
False - He was a child in the story.
- 6 Leonardo da Vinci was known for his bravery and adventurous spirit as a child.
True - The story describes him as brave, clever, and adventurous.
- 7 Leonardo and his friends Alessandro and Tommaso built a wooden dam to stop the landslide.
False - This is not mentioned in the story. Instead, they removed rocks and used a catapult.
- 8 The village people were successful in removing all the big stones on their first try.
False - The villagers initially failed to remove the big stones.
- 9 Leonardo used a catapult to remove the big stones blocking the river.
True - The story explains that they used a catapult for this purpose.
- 10 The villagers held a big party to celebrate Leonardo and his friends' success.
True - The story mentions this celebration.
- 11 The river was blocked by rocks that fell from the mountain.
True - The story explicitly states this.
- 12 Leonardo's catapult was made of metal and steel.
False - The catapult was built with wood and fabric, not metal or steel.

Answers to the Questions

1. **Why was there a water shortage in the village?**
A landslide caused rocks to block the river, preventing water from reaching the village.
2. **Who was the main protagonist of the story?**
The main protagonist was a clever, brave, and adventurous child named Leonardo da Vinci.
3. **What did the villagers learn from the experience?**
The villagers learned that listening to everyone's ideas is important because the best ideas can come from children.
4. **Who is Leonardo da Vinci?**
He was a clever and adventurous child who liked to create unusual inventions.
5. **Where was he born?**
He was born in a small village near the mountains.

6. **Explain how the catapult worked.**

The catapult was an enormous invention built with wood and fabric. It was used to remove the big stones blocking the river.

7. **How did his best friends help him?**

Alessandro and Tommaso helped Leonardo by following his plan, removing smaller stones, and assisting in building and using the catapult.

8. **What was their strategy in freeing the river?**

Their strategy was to first block the big rocks with wood branches, remove smaller stones, and then use the catapult to remove the large rocks.

9. **From what material did they build the catapult?**

They built the catapult using wood and fabric.

10. **What is the moral of the story?**

The moral of the story is that listening to everyone's ideas is very important because the best ideas can come from children.

Fill in the gaps

- 1 A little boy named Leonardo lived in a small **village** near the mountains.
- 2 Leonardo enjoyed building strange **inventions** but adults didn't take him seriously.
- 3 The rocks blocked the river and stopped the **water** from reaching the village.
- 4 The villagers were worried and didn't know how to **remove** the big rocks.
- 5 They started clearing the smaller stones and used wood **branches** to control the water flow.
- 6 The adults tried to move the bigger rocks but were not **successful**.
- 7 Leonardo and his friends invented a huge **catapult** to remove the rocks.
- 8 They built the invention using strong wood and some **fabric**.
- 9 After freeing the river, the villagers organised a big **party** for the young heroes.
- 10 The story teaches us that **children** can have amazing ideas that solve big problems.