

The Golden Ratio

Ancient Greeks used a certain ratio of height to width in rectangles that they believed was pleasing to the eye.

The ratio between the height and width is **1:1.618**.

Consider classical architecture (e.g. the Parthenon), sculpture and painting and the works of Renaissance artists such as Leonardo Da Vinci.

Leonardo Da Vinci called it the "divine proportion" and featured it in many of his paintings.

Below is the famous "Mona Lisa".

ACTIVITY:

Try drawing a rectangle around her face. Are the measurements in a golden proportion? You can further explore this by subdividing the rectangle formed by using her eyes as a horizontal divider. He did an entire exploration of the human body and the ratios of the lengths of various body parts.



This image was found at: <http://cellini.leonardo.net/museum/2.jpg>
Mona Lisa or La Gioconda (c. 1503–1505/1507)—Oil on poplar, Louvre, Paris, France

