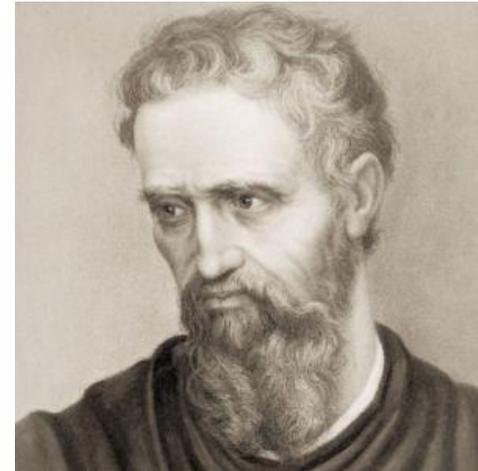




# Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni



“Lord, grant that I may always desire  
more than I accomplish.”  
—Michelangelo



# Early Life

- Born March 6, 1475 to a family of moderate means in the banking business
- A few months after Michelangelo's birth, his family moved to Florence, Italy
- Michelangelo became an apprentice to the city's most prominent painter, Domenico Ghirlandaio, for a three-year term in 1487



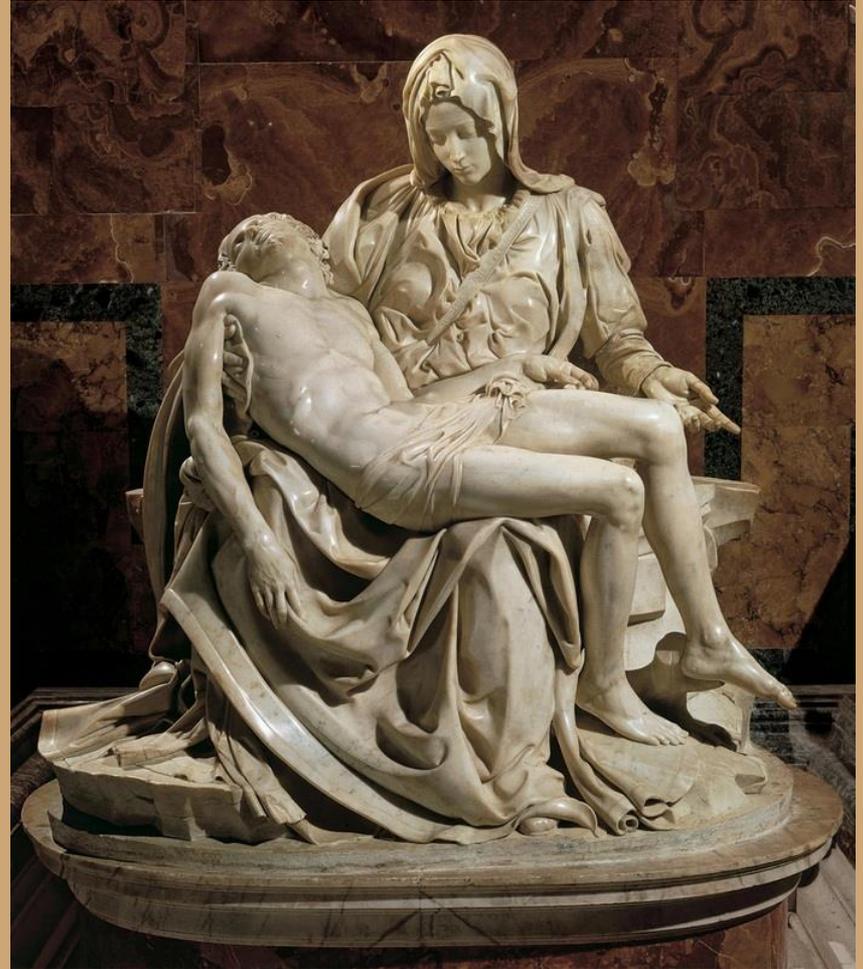
# Early Life

- His talent drew the attention of Lorenzo de' Medici
- Michelangelo learned from and was inspired by the scholars and writers that were also staying in the Medici household
  - His later work would forever be influenced by what he learned about philosophy and politics in those years
  - He also refined his sculpting technique under the apprenticeship of Bertoldo di Giovanni
- Although Michelangelo later expressed his genius in many media, he would always consider himself a sculptor first.



# The *Pietà*

- Michelangelo was working in Rome by 1498
- French cardinal Jean Bilhères de Lagrulas commissioned the artist for a statue depicting a draped Virgin Mary with her dead son resting in her arms—the *Pietà*
- At 69 inches tall, the masterpiece features two intricate figures carved from one block of marble, and continues to draw visitors to St. Peter's Basilica more than 500 years after it's completion.

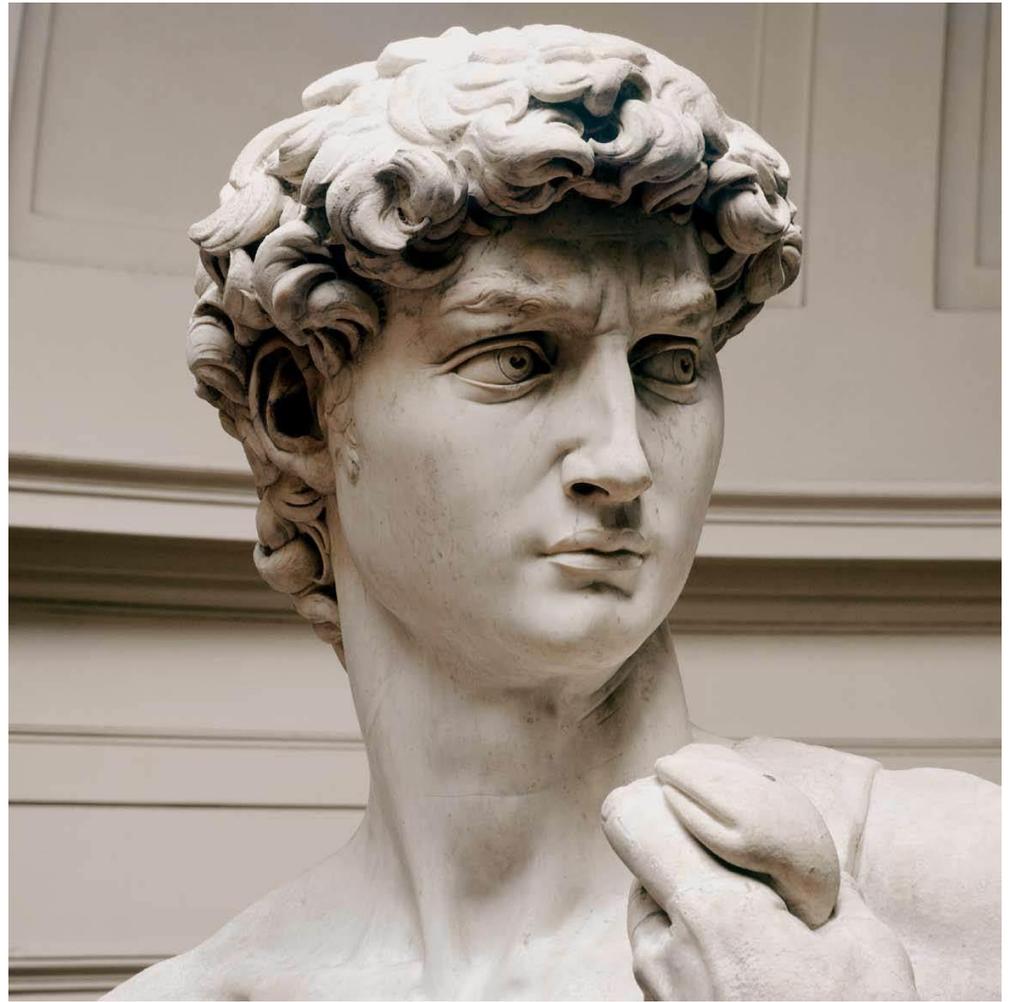




# David

- In 1501, Michelangelo returned to Florence and was contracted to create a huge male, marble figure to enhance the city's famous cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore
- He chose to depict the young David from the Old Testament.
- 17 feet tall, considered by scholars to be nearly technically perfect





# The Sistine Chapel

- In 1508, Pope Julius II called Michelangelo to Rome to depict the twelve apostles on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel
- A four-year project, and Michelangelo instead painted seven prophets and five sibyls (female prophets of myth) around the border of the ceiling
- Filled the central space with scenes from Genesis.





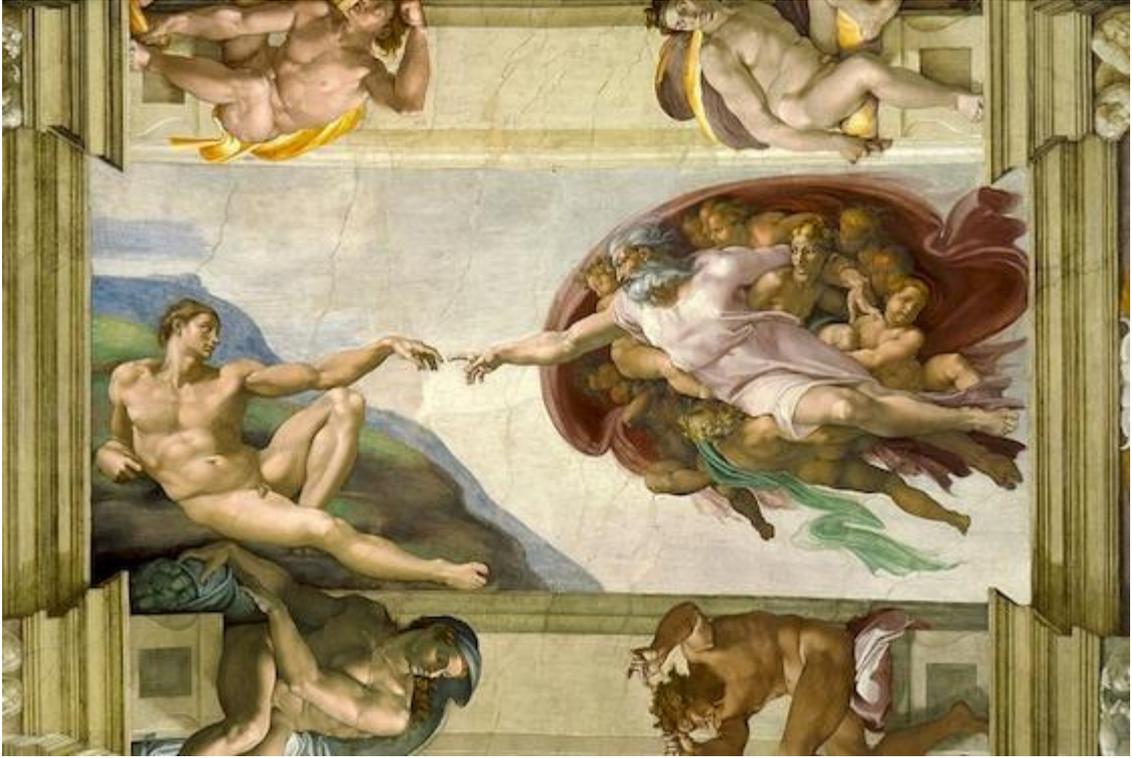
Ancestors of Jesus

Three stories of Noah

The creation and downfall of Adam and Eve

The Creation

Prophets and Sibyls



# Later Life and Death

- From the 1530s on, Michelangelo wrote many poems, but only about 300 survive
  - Incorporated the philosophy of Neo-Platonism, an idea that a human soul, powered by love and ecstasy, can reunite with an almighty God
- After he left Florence permanently in 1534 for Rome, Michelangelo wrote many lyrical letters, all written about his strong attachments to various young men, especially the aristocrat Tommaso Cavalieri.
  - Scholars debate if this was an expression of homosexuality, or longing for a father-son relationship, as Michelangelo was unmarried, childless, and aging
- Michelangelo died after a short illness in 1564 at 88, surviving far past the usual life expectancy of the era

# Influence

- The most important sculptor ever
- Added detail and movement to sculpture that revolutionized the artform
- Made sculpture more realistic



# Renaissance Sculpture

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- The qualities of Renaissance Sculpture that differed from Pre-Renaissance sculpture were:
  - More realistic detail
  - More movement
  - Less straight lines









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# *David* Matures...



Donatello, 15<sup>th</sup> century



Michelangelo, 16<sup>th</sup> Century



Bernini, 17<sup>th</sup> Century

# Sekhmet Goddess vs. Kritios Boy vs. David

1450-1310 BC



480 BC



1501-1504



## Activity: Sculpt like Michelangelo!

Use the Play-Doh to sculpt your best impression of the person sitting next to you on Zoom. Or, tape a piece of paper to the bottom of a table. Lay under it and draw something. It is a myth that he laid on his back while painting the Sistine Chapel, but it is fun for this activity.