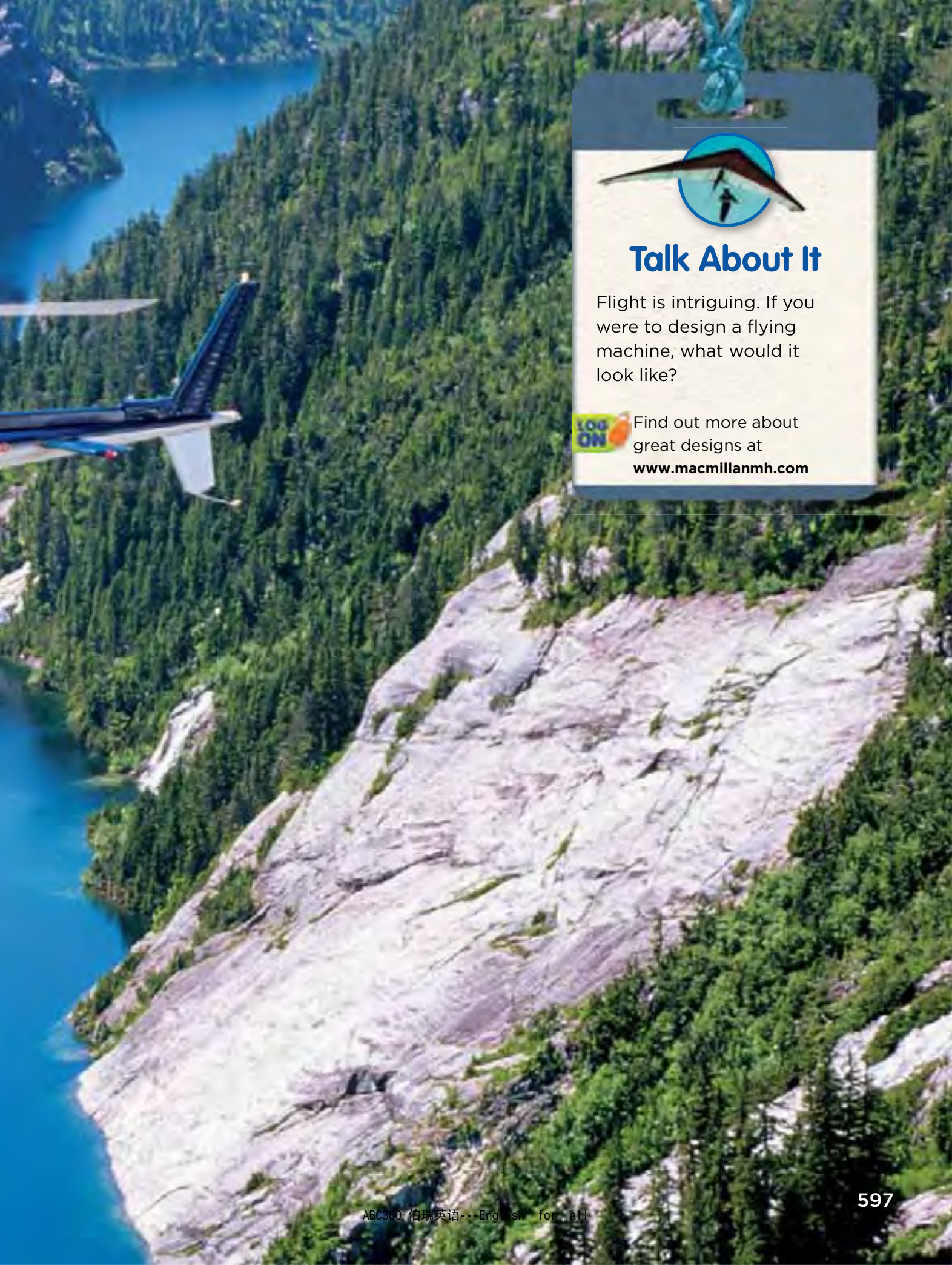




# GREAT DESIGNS LAST FOREVER





## Talk About It

Flight is intriguing. If you were to design a flying machine, what would it look like?



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## Vocabulary

Renaissance  
commissioned  
proportion  
miniature  
philosopher  
elaborate  
envisioned  
recommend

## Word Parts

Many English words have  
**Greek Roots**.

*phil* = love

*soph* = wise

*Philosopher* originally meant  
one who loves wisdom.

# Artists of the Past

by Lisa Darwood

Suppose that you could travel back in time to the period of the **Renaissance**. This was an exciting age when there was a rebirth of interest in learning and the arts. It began in Italy in the 1300s and spread throughout Europe.

You arrive in Florence, a beautiful city in Italy. This is the city of the Medici family. The Medici are wealthy bankers and merchants who have **commissioned**, or sponsored, artists to create many paintings, statues, and buildings for the city. They have also supported poets and writers.

One of the people you meet is Michelangelo Buonarroti. Like fellow artist Leonardo da Vinci, he is a genius of many talents. Known for his beautiful paintings in the Sistine Chapel in Rome, he is also a great sculptor and is making sketches for a statue. Most artists of this period are concerned that parts of statues be in **proportion**. They want their work to show how one part of the body relates to other parts. Michelangelo's sketches show more than the figure's proportions, though. They show the power and spirit of the figure. Once Michelangelo is happy with his drawings, he will make a model of his statue. The model is a **miniature** version of the statue, which will be huge.

## Michelangelo's David

Another artist you meet is Leonardo da Vinci, also a leader of the Renaissance. One of his most famous paintings is the *Mona Lisa*. But Leonardo is more than a painter; he is a **philosopher** who studies the nature of the universe. He wants to know how everything works. He draws **elaborate** and detailed scientific pictures of plants, animals, humans, and the many inventions he has **envisioned** in his mind. Leonardo fills more than 4,000 pages in his notebooks with drawings. He shows you drawings of flying machines and undersea boats. How amazing for the fifteenth century!

A third artist of the Renaissance is Raphael. He is younger than Leonardo and Michelangelo and has studied their work. Some of the people you meet think his paintings are more delicate in color and have softer lines. Raphael shows you a work called *The School of Athens*.



Detail of Plato and Aristotle from *The School of Athens* by Raphael

It pictures an imaginary group of great thinkers. You are interested to see that included in the painting are Michelangelo, Leonardo, and Raphael.

When you return to the twenty-first century, you can't wait to tell your friends about these artists of the past. You **recommend**, or suggest, that they too pay a visit to the Renaissance Era.

## Reread for Comprehension



### Generate Questions

#### Make Generalizations

It is important to generate or ask questions as you read. How accurate is the information? As you read a selection, look for facts. Compare what you read to other information that you know. Then make a generalization about the information.

Use a Generalizations Chart as you reread "Artists of the Past."

Important Information	Generalization