



WEB QUEST

Introduction:

Dan Brown's *The da Vinci Code* is filled with stories of secret societies, conspiracy, and code. After reading excerpts from the book and viewing clips from the movie, you will begin a web quest to learn more about the story, its historical context, and what is truth vs. fiction.

1. Secret societies play a major role in *The da Vinci Code*. For each of the following, explain what the group is, its historical context, and its role in the book.

The Priory of Sion

The Knights Templar

Opus Dei

2. Jacques Sauniere is a renowned curator at the Louvre in Paris, but what other role does he play in the story and why is it important?

3. In addition to the Louvre, our characters visit a number of other important sites. For each site, provide a brief summary of the site itself, its location, and why it is important to the plot of the story?

Rosslyn Chapel

St-Sulpice Church

The Temple Church

Westminster Abbey

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4. What is *Les Dossiers Secrets*? When and where was it found, and who does it identify? Be specific.
5. Many of Leonardo da Vinci's works and inventions are referenced throughout the book. Name 3 and explain the role they play in the story.
6. Sir Isaac Newton plays a big role in helping Robert Langdon discover "the password." What is his role? What is missing from his tomb? Why is this missing item important?
7. Christianity and the Bible are central to *The da Vinci Code*'s plot. According to the book, how did the Bible come to be? Why is this important?
8. What is the Holy Grail? Why does it need to be protected?
9. What is the Rose Line? Where does it lead Robert Langdon in the Epilogue and what does he discover there?

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10. In the book, Dan Brown writes:

"History is always written by the winners. When two cultures clash, the loser is obliterated, and the winner writes the history books—books which glorify their own cause and disparage the conquered foe. As Napoleon once said, 'What is history, but a fable agreed upon?'"

Based on the excerpts you've read, clips you've seen, and research you've conducted, what does this quote mean? You must cite at least one piece of textual evidence in your response.

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11. How does *The da Vinci Code* fit within the characteristics of myths, legends, and conspiracies, and their purpose in culture and society? You must cite at least one piece of textual evidence in your response.

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12. BONUS QUESTION: Who is Silas and what is his role in the book?