

Biography 1

Martin Luther King Jr.



- **Occupation:** Civil Rights Leader
- **Born:** January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, GA
- **Died:** April 4, 1968 in Memphis, TN
- **Best known for:** His "I have a dream" speech

Fun Facts about Martin Luther King Jr.

- King was the youngest person to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a national holiday.
- At the Atlanta premier of the movie *Gone with the Wind*, Martin sang with his church choir.
- There are over 730 streets in the United States named after Martin Luther King Jr.
- One of his main influences was [Mohandas Gandhi](#) who taught protesting in a non-violent manner.
- He was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.
- The name on his original birth certificate is Michael King. This was a mistake, however. He was supposed to be named after his father who was named for the leader of the Christian reformation movement, Martin Luther.
- He is often referred to by his initials MLK.

Questions

1. What is Martin Luther King, Jr., best known for?
2. When was King awarded the Nobel Peace Prize?
3. How many streets are named after King in the U.S.?
4. In what state was King born?
5. List TWO medals that King received.

Biography 2

Alexander the Great



- **Occupation:** Military Commander and King of Ancient Greece
- **Born:** July 20, 356 BC Pella, Macedon
- **Died:** June 10, 323 BC Babylon
- **Best known for:** Conquering much of Asia and Europe

Fun Facts about Alexander the Great

- He was supposedly related to the Greek heroes Hercules from his father's side and Achilles from his mother's side.
- When Alexander was 16, his father left the country to do battle, leaving Alexander as regent, or temporary ruler of Macedonia.
- He tamed a wild horse named Bucephalus when he was a kid. It was his main horse until it died of old age. Alexander named a city in India after his horse.
- He never lost a single battle.

- Legend has it that the Temple of Artemis burnt down the day of Alexander's birth because Artemis was busy attending the birth.
- His best friend and second in command was the general Hephaestion.

Questions

6. What was Alexander the Great's occupation?
7. How old was Alexander when his father left him as regent, or temporary ruler of Macedonia?
8. What was the name of Alexander's horse?
9. What is Alexander best known for?
10. According to the historical record, how many battles did Alexander lose?

Biography 3

Amelia Earhart



- **Occupation:** Aviator
- **Born:** July 24, 1897 in Atchison, Kansas
- **Died:** She disappeared on July 2, 1937 over the Pacific Ocean. She was declared dead on January 5, 1939
- **Best known for:** Being the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean

Fun Facts about Amelia Earhart

- Amelia went by the nicknames Meeley and Millie. Her sister Muriel was called Pidge.
- She married her book publisher, George Putnam, in 1931.
- When Amelia landed in Ireland after her solo Atlantic flight, the farmer asked her where she was from. When she answered that she was from America, he wasn't quite sure he believed her.
- Howland Island is a mile and a half wide and one mile long. It is located in the Pacific Ocean 2,556 miles from New Guinea. A lighthouse was built to the memory of Amelia Earhart on Howland Island.
- In 1935 she became the first person to fly solo from Los Angeles to Mexico City and from Mexico City to Newark, New Jersey.

Questions

11. Amelia Earhart is best known for doing what?
12. What was built on Howland Island in Earhart's memory?
13. Where was Earhart born?

14. Why was Earhart declared dead on January 5, 1939?
15. What was the reaction of the farmer when Earhart landed her plane in Ireland?
16. How many miles is Howland Island from New Guinea?
17. What special thing did Earhart do in 1935?

Biography 4

Leonardo da Vinci



- **Occupation:** Artist, Inventor, Scientist
- **Born:** April 15, 1452 in Vinci, Italy
- **Died:** May 2, 1519 in Amboise, Kingdom of France
- **Famous works:** *Mona Lisa*, *The Last Supper*, *The Vitruvian Man*
- **Style/Period:** High Renaissance

Fun Facts about Leonardo da Vinci

- The term Renaissance Man means someone who is good at everything. Leonardo is considered to be the ultimate Renaissance man.
- Some people claim he invented the bicycle.
- He was very logical and used a process like the [scientific method](#) when investigating a subject.
- His Vitruvian man is on the Italian Euro coin.
- Only around 15 of his paintings are still around.
- The Mona Lisa is also called "La Gioconda" meaning the laughing one.
- Unlike some artists, Leonardo was very famous for his paintings while he was still alive. It's only recently that we've realized what a great scientist and inventor he was.

Questions

18. Identify da Vinci's style/period.
19. What does the term "Renaissance Man" mean?

20. List THREE of da Vinci's famous works.
21. Some people claim that da Vinci invented what form of transportation?
22. When did da Vinci die?
23. What was his occupation?
24. What process did da Vinci use when investigating a subject?

Biography 5

Thomas Paine



- **Occupation:** Author and Revolutionary
- **Born:** January 29, 1737 in Thetford, Norfolk, Great Britain
- **Died:** June 8, 1809 in New York City
- **Best known for:** Founding Father of the United States and author of Common Sense

Interesting Facts About Thomas Paine

- He nearly died of typhoid fever on his first trip to America.
- Paine was also an inventor. He received a patent for a bridge design and invented a smokeless candle.
- His article titled Public Good argued that the Articles of the Confederation should be replaced with a Constitution that formed a strong central government.
- Paine's writings also influenced future Americans such as Abraham Lincoln and Thomas Edison.

Questions

25. Identify two things that Paine invented.
26. What did his article called, "Public Good," argue for?
27. From what disease did Paine almost die from?
28. Where was Paine born?
29. What is Paine best known for?
30. What was Paine's occupation?

**Don't forget
to turn in
your work to
the tray for a
grade!**