

Famous People - CONTENTS

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Steven Spielberg

This lesson focuses on probably the most famous film director in the world, Steven Spielberg. He was born on 18th December 1946.

Level

Pre-intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level A2-B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Ask your students what they know about Steven Spielberg, and which of his films they have seen. Which are their favourites, and why?
2. Give each student in the class a copy of Worksheet A and give them five to ten minutes to read through it, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. Tell the students it is important that they try to remember as much of the information as possible.
3. Tell the students they are going to prepare a test for each other. Then divide the class into two teams, A and B.
4. Cut Worksheet B in half and give each member of each team the corresponding half. Explain that each team has to work together in order to formulate the questions that produce the answers given, based on the text on Worksheet A. Note that it is possible for there to be slight variations of each question.
5. When both teams have finished preparing their questions, ask them to turn over Worksheet A and the glossary so that they can't see them.
6. The two teams now take it in turns to ask and answer the questions. Encourage the teams to confer before answering, but make it clear that once they have given their answer they cannot change it. You should only accept answers given in correct English. Keep the score on the board: the team with the most correct answers at the end of the quiz wins.
7. Before the next exercise you need to cut Worksheet C into two halves. Divide the students into pairs, Student A and Student B, and hand out the halves of the worksheet so that Student A's grid has the words that Student B's grid is missing, and vice versa. The idea is for the students to *describe* the words they have in their grids so that their partners can guess what they are, and then fill them in. It is therefore vital that they don't show their grids to their partners. Tell the students to describe the words one by one, and to take it in turns to speak. You could let the students carry on describing the words for as long as it takes for their partners to identify them, or as a fun alternative you could impose a time limit (perhaps 15 or 20 seconds) for the description of each word. Before the students begin, point out that all the missing words feature in the text on Worksheet A.
8. Check answers in open class.

Answers:

Part A

Team A

1. Where is the small town in *Jaws*?
2. Who starred/was in *War of the Worlds* (in 2005)?
3. What was the subject of the film Spielberg made when he was eleven?
4. What was one of the memorable things about the film *Jaws*?
5. What is *Jurassic Park* about?
6. When did Spielberg make *ET*?
7. What kind of shark was in the film *Jaws*?
8. How were *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and *ET* influential?
9. Where is Arizona?

Team B

1. How many Oscars has Spielberg won for best director?
2. When was Spielberg born?
3. What was the film that made Spielberg famous?
4. What is *Saving Private Ryan* about?
5. What kind of aliens were in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and *ET*?
6. When did Spielberg make *Jaws*?
7. Who was *ET* particularly popular with?
8. What was another of the memorable things about the film *Jaws*?
9. How old was Spielberg when he persuaded his local cinema to show a science-fiction film he had written and directed?

Part B

1. award
2. realistic
3. battle
4. spaceship
5. moving
6. nowadays
7. coastal
8. soldier
9. attack
10. tension

When the grid has been completed correctly, *DreamWorks* will read from top to bottom.

Steven Spielberg

WORKSHEET A

Steven Spielberg is probably the most famous film director in the world, and has worked on a large number of very popular and well-known films during his long career.

Born in 1946, he grew up in the state of Arizona in the western United States and showed a passion for film-making from a very young age. He made a nine-minute film about cowboys when he was only eleven, and at sixteen persuaded his local cinema to show a 140-minute science fiction adventure that he had written and directed.

In his early twenties he worked mostly on TV programmes and short films, before moving on to longer productions. The film that made him famous was *Jaws* (1975), in which a man-eating shark terrorises the population of a small coastal town in the United States. One of the most memorable things about the film was the way the camera-work and music created almost unbearable tension whenever the shark was about to attack. People also remember it for the life-size model shark, which perhaps looked quite impressive thirty years ago but doesn't look quite so scary nowadays.

A couple of years later Spielberg directed *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (1977), in which UFOs appear in the sky over the United States and then friendly aliens arrive in a huge spaceship. He continued with the subject of friendly aliens in *ET* (1982), which was particularly popular with children and teenagers. Both these productions were influential in their use of special effects.

The first of his major successes in the 1990s was *Jurassic Park* (1993), in which dinosaurs return to Earth. Soon after came *Schindler's List* (1993), a moving film about the Holocaust, and a few years later he directed another film about events during the Second World War, *Saving Private Ryan* (1998), famous for its realistic recreation of battles involving American soldiers in France in 1944.

The many awards Spielberg has received during his career include two Oscars for best director. Now aged over 60, he still seems to have a knack for making films that are popular with the public, such as *War of the Worlds* (2005) starring Tom Cruise. You might think there is nothing more he can achieve in the world of cinema, and yet he shows no sign of slowing down.

Part A

Team A

Here are the answers to some questions about the text on Worksheet A, but what are the questions? When you have prepared the questions, Team B will have to answer them as part of a quiz.

1. The small town in *Jaws* is in the United States.
 2. Tom Cruise.
 3. The subject was cowboys.
 4. One of the memorable things was the camera-work / music / model shark.
 5. It is about dinosaurs.
 6. In 1982.
 7. A man-eating shark.
 8. They were influential in their use of special effects.
 9. It is in the western United States.
-

Team B

Here are the answers to some questions about the text on Worksheet A, but what are the questions? When you have prepared the questions, Team A will have to answer them as part of a quiz.

1. He has won two Oscars for best director.
2. He was born in 1946.
3. *Jaws*.
4. It is about battles in the Second World War.
5. Friendly aliens.
6. In 1975.
7. It was particularly popular with children and teenagers.
8. Another of the memorable things was the camera-work / music / model shark.
9. He was sixteen.

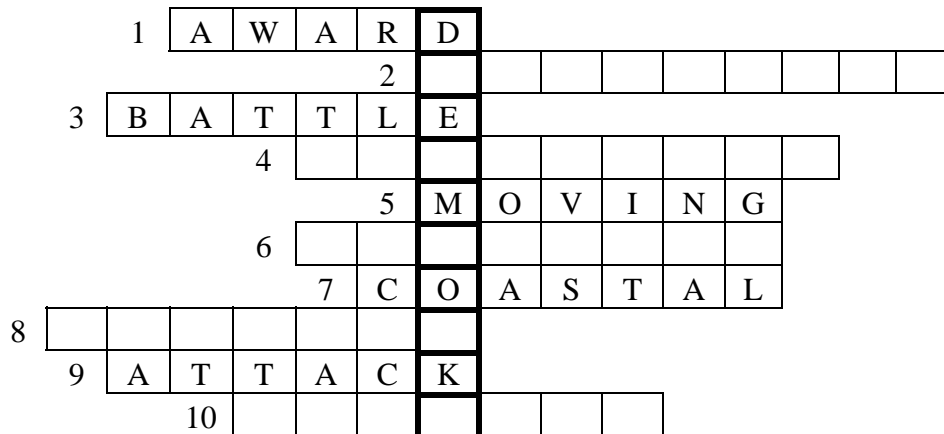
Steven Spielberg

WORKSHEET C

Part B

Student A

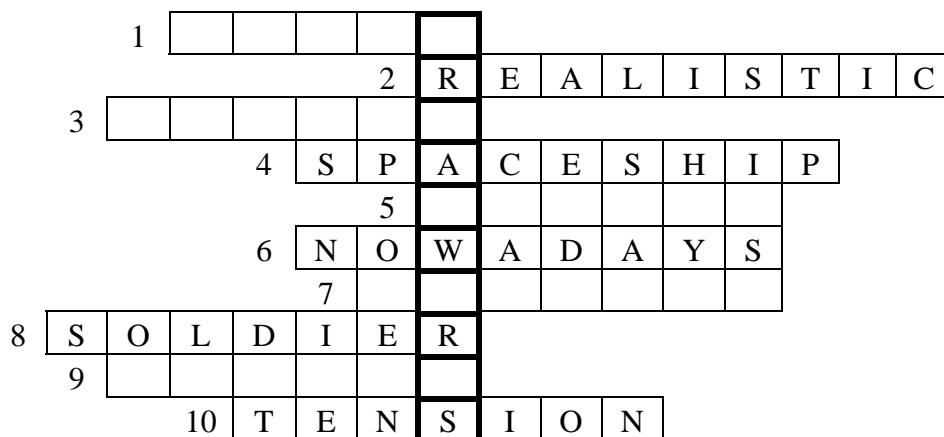
Your partner is going to describe the words that are missing from the crossword below. When you have all the words the crossword will reveal the name of the Hollywood film studio that Steven Spielberg helped to create. The studio has produced lots of successful films in recent years.



.....

Student B

Your partner is going to describe the words that are missing from the crossword below. When you have all the words the crossword will reveal the name of the Hollywood film studio that Steven Spielberg helped to create. The studio has produced lots of successful films in recent years.



James Dean

On September 30th it is exactly fifty years ago that James Dean died on September 30th 1955. He crashed his Porsche on the way to a car race in California, and ended a career which was just taking off. He only ever made three films, two of which were released after his death. In portraying the angst-ridden teenager who is at odds with the world around him, he became, and remains, a tragic icon.

Level

Elementary and above

How to use the lesson

1. Ask your students what they know about James Dean – When did he live? What was he famous for? How did he die? etc.
2. Give each student in the class a copy of the worksheet and ask them to complete the text in pairs.
3. When students have finished the task, ask them to check their answers with another pair.
4. Check answers in open class.

Answers:

1 on 2 in 3 to 4 to 5 with 6 on 7 to 8 in 9 in 10 with 11 for
12 in 13 on 14 of 15 in

James Dean

Complete the story of James Dean's life. Use the words in the box.

in to on for with of

James Dean was born 1) _____ February 8, 1931 2) _____ Marion, Indiana. When he was five years old, he moved 3) _____ Los Angeles with his family. Four years later he returned 4) _____ Indiana after his mother died. He lived 5) _____ his aunt and uncle 6) _____ their farm.

He returned 7) _____ Los Angeles to attend Junior College and then UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles). But he soon left university to become an actor. He had small parts 8) _____ films from time to time, and he sometimes appeared 9) _____ TV commercials.

In 1951 he moved from LA to New York and joined the famous Actors Studio. He studied 10) _____ the very best actors of the time, including Marlon Brando. The Actors Studio was famous 11) _____ a style of acting called 'method acting' – the actor has to 'feel' the role before being able to perform it.

In 1954 director Elia Kazan offered him a part 12) _____ his film *East of Eden*. James played an angry young teenager. Immediately after James Dean finished work 13) _____ *East of Eden*, he started work on *Rebel Without a Cause*.

In March, 1955, he celebrated his success in *East of Eden* by buying a Porsche in which he could practise his passion, road racing. During the making 14) _____ his third, and final film *Giant*, he made his last journey. He was driving to Salinas, California to compete in a car race when he was involved 15) _____ an accident and killed. He was only twenty-four years old.

Audrey Hepburn

Brown-eyed, elfin beauty Audrey Hepburn died on January 20th 1993, at her home in Switzerland. Three months earlier, the actress had been diagnosed with cancer of the colon. She was famous not only for her screen roles in classics like *Roman Holiday*, *My Fair Lady* and *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, but also for her tireless work on behalf of the children's charity UNICEF.

Level

Intermediate and above

How to use the lesson

1. Tell the class you are going to give them each part of a story about the life of actress (and UNICEF goodwill ambassador) Audrey Hepburn, but that the story is in three parts. Each student in the class will have one third of the story to read. It may help if you can dig up a picture of the actress for those students not familiar with her.
2. Divide the class into groups of three and give each group a copy of Worksheet A cut into three parts, A, B and C.
3. Tell the students they have four minutes to read their part of the story, after which time they are going to answer some questions about it.
4. After four minutes, give each group one copy of Worksheet B. Tell them they have to work together to answer the questions.
5. Check answers in open class.

Answers

1. Holland
2. Belgium (near Brussels)
3. To take up a ballet scholarship
4. Colette
5. *Roman Holiday*
6. Five
7. One
8. Hubert de Givenchy
9. Twice
10. Mel Ferrer
11. Two
12. Sean and Luca
13. UNICEF
14. Cancer of the colon
15. Switzerland

Fragile Beauty (A)

Audrey Hepburn was the daughter of an English banker and a Dutch baroness, born near Brussels, in Belgium, on May 4, 1929. She was sent to a girls' school near London after her parents' divorce but while she was visiting her mother in Holland during the school holidays in 1939, war broke out. She spent World War II in Nazi-occupied Arnhem, where she attended a local school and received ballet training at the Arnhem Conservatory.

After the war she went to London on a ballet scholarship. With her graceful good looks, she also did some fashion modelling. In the early 50s she joined Felix Aylmer's acting classes and got some small roles in British movies. While filming on the French Riviera, in 1951, she met the French novelist Colette, who insisted she play the role of *Gigi* on Broadway in the Anita Loos adaptation of her novel. She was a great success and this led to a starring part opposite Gregory Peck in the film *Roman Holiday*.



Fragile Beauty (B)

She won an Academy Award (Oscar) for her role as the princess who finds romance with a journalist in *Roman Holiday*. She was later nominated for four more Academy Awards for her parts in *Sabrina*, *The Nun's Story*, *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *Wait Until Dark*. In 1954 Audrey started a lifelong friendship with the French fashion designer Hubert de Givenchy. His stylish fashions suited her perfectly and in return her famous name earned him a worldwide reputation. In the same year she married Mel Ferrer, her co-star in the play *Ondine*. They also co-starred in King Vidor's epic *War and Peace*. Ferrer later directed her in *Green Mansions*, which was not a great success, and produced her Oscar-nominated film, *Wait Until Dark* (1967), in which she plays the part of a terrorized blind woman. However, Ferrer played no part in any of the best films of her career. These were *Funny Face*, *Love in the Afternoon*, *The Nun's Story*, *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *My Fair Lady*.



Fragile Beauty (C)

Audrey Hepburn and Mel Ferrer divorced in 1968 and Audrey kept custody of their eight-year-old son Sean. The following year she married an Italian psychiatrist, Dr Andrea Dotti, who was nine years younger than her. They made their home in Rome and later in Switzerland. On February 8th, 1970, her second son, Luca, was born. Her marriage to Dotti also ended in divorce, in 1982. Although during her career she was nominated for five Oscars, she only won one. Nevertheless, she remained a superstar, despite doing less film work in the 80s. In 1988 she was made a Special Ambassador for the children's charity UNICEF and for the rest of her life devoted much of her free time to it. Shortly after a 1992 visit to Somalia, a country ravaged by war and famine, she was diagnosed with cancer of the colon. She died soon afterwards at her home in Switzerland. Her death was mourned internationally as the loss of one of the favourite film actresses of all time, an icon to style, elegance and dignity.

Fragile Beauty

In groups of three, A, B and C, answer these questions about Audrey Hepburn.

1. Where was Audrey's mother from?
2. Where was Audrey born?
3. After the war, why did Audrey go to London?
4. Who wrote the novel *Gigi*?
5. In which film did Audrey star with Gregory Peck?
6. How many Oscars was Audrey nominated for?
7. How many did she win?
8. Which French designer's fashions was Audrey associated with?
9. How many times did she marry?
10. What was the name of her first husband?
11. How many children did she have?
12. What were their names?
13. Which charity did Audrey work for?
14. What was the cause of her death?
15. Where was she living when she died?

Andy Warhol

The weird and wonderful Andy Warhol was a pioneer of Pop Art and regarded as one of the greatest artists of his genre. This week we mark his birthday with an 'extra word' activity. There is one page to print. Click here to get your copy.

Level

Upper Intermediate and above

How to use the lesson

Optional lead in: Tell your students that you are thinking of a famous person (Andy Warhol) and get them to ask you twenty questions to find their identity. Tell them you can only answer their questions with *yes* or *no*. To find out more information about Andy Warhol before you start this activity, have a look at the websites listed at the bottom of these teacher's notes.

1. Give each of your students a copy of the worksheet and ask them to fold their piece of paper in half so that only the first exercise is visible.
2. Divide the class into pairs and ask your students to work together to find the extra word (where appropriate) in each line.
3. Check answers in open class.

Answers

- | | |
|--------|-----------|
| 1. ✓ | 9. very |
| 2. who | 10. by |
| 3. has | 11. the |
| 4. a | 12. ✓ |
| 5. had | 13. been |
| 6. ✓ | 14. ✓ |
| 7. so | 15. of |
| 8. to | 16. album |

4. Tell your students they have a minute to complete the rest of the story on their own (the bottom half of their piece of paper). If they are not moving too quickly, give them an extra minute.

5. When the time limit is up, stop your students and ask them to check their answers with the person sitting next to them.

6. Check answers in open class.

Answers

1. the / a 2. the 3. a 4. a 5. - 6. the 7. a 8. - 9. - 10. a 11. The
 12. - 13. the 14. the

Andy Warhol

1. Read the story of Andy Warhol. There are sixteen lines. Twelve of them contain one extra word. Find the extra words and write them in the column on the right. The first two lines have been done as examples.

1	Andrew Warhola was born on August 6 th , 1928, in Pennsylvania, USA to immigrant	✓
2	parents who from Czechoslovakia. After gaining a fine arts degree from the Carnegie	<u>who</u>
3	Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh, Andy has moved to New York.	_____
4	Throughout the 1950s he managed to scrape a living until he won a recognition, in	_____
5	1959, with an exhibition in New York of his gold shoe drawings. Having had been	_____
6	noticed by the art world, his next works were certain to be scrutinised more closely.	_____
7	Consequently, so when his paintings of Coca-Cola bottles and Campbell soup cans	_____
8	(arranged in rows in vast numbers as if they had been to mass produced) were first	_____
9	shown, they were very ridiculed. However, for his next exhibition, Andy Warhol (he	_____
10	had dropped the 'a' from the end of his surname by now) exhibited by more examples	_____
11	of this type of work with paintings of the money and silk-screen portraits of Marilyn	_____
12	Monroe. The show was a critical success and this type of art inspired by popular	_____
13	culture was fast becoming a recognised art form, which was been known as Pop Art.	_____
14	During the 1960s Warhol went on to establish himself as one of the most important	_____
15	artists of the late twentieth century, moving into directing of movies and producing	_____
16	rock and roll music album with his protégé band, <i>The Velvet Underground</i> .	_____

2. Complete the rest of the story using *a*, *the* or nothing.

His studio (nicknamed The Factory) became 1) _____ “hang out” for all 2) _____ young dudes of New York. One day in 1968 though, 3) _____ young woman walked into The Factory and shot Warhol, seriously injuring him. After making 4) _____ slow recovery Andy found he had achieved superstar status and his dark glasses and 5) _____ strange silver wig had become icons in their own right. Throughout 6) _____ 1970s and 1980s he used this fame as 7) _____ way of helping young artists.

On February 21st, 1987, Andy Warhol entered 8) _____ hospital in 9) _____ New York for 10) _____ gall bladder operation. 11) _____ surgery was successful but he died from 12) _____ heart failure in 13) _____ early hours of 14) _____ next morning.

Mona Lisa

On 21st August 1911, Leonardo's masterpiece *Mona Lisa* was stolen from the Louvre in Paris. It was recovered two years later in Florence and returned to France. That's the gist of this week's offering which comes to you in the form of a 'Who am I?' with questions, followed by the answers in a couple of newspaper extracts.

Level

Lower Intermediate upwards

How to use the lesson

1. Give each student in the class a copy of Worksheet A and tell them they have 30 seconds to read the text. After 30 seconds, ask them to stop reading, turn their pieces of paper over and tell a partner who, or what, they think the story is about.
2. After eliciting the answer *Mona Lisa*, ask students to turn their pieces of paper over and answer the questions in exercise 1, in pairs.
3. Check answers in open class, but don't offer any answers at this stage. Give each student a copy of Worksheet B. Give students a time limit of two minutes to check their answers to question 1, but tell them not to worry about the blank spaces yet.
4. Check the answers to question 1 and then ask students to follow the instructions in questions 2 and 3 and fill the gaps with either a preposition (1) or *a, an, the* (2).
5. Check all answers in open class.

Answers to question 1

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Mona Lisa, a painting | 4. Mona Lisa and La Gioconda | 7. Four years |
| 2. Leonardo da Vinci | 5. Her smile | 8. Vincenzo Perugia |
| 3. The Louvre museum in Paris | 6. In Florence, Italy | 9. In Florence, Italy |
| | | 10. The helicopter |

Answers to question 3

- | | | |
|-------------|---------|---------|
| 1. of/about | 5. of | 9. with |
| 2. about | 6. of | 10. on |
| 3. of/about | 7. at | |
| 4. of | 8. from | |

Answers to question 4

- | | | |
|--------|--------|---------|
| 1. the | 6. the | 11. the |
| 2. an | 7. the | 12. the |
| 3. the | 8. the | |
| 4. the | 9. the | |
| 5. A | 10. a | |

Solve the mystery

WORKSHEET A

I'm old (about 500 years old, actually) but, according to many people, I'm still beautiful. I'm called a work of art, a masterpiece, although there's something about me that people still don't really understand.

About a hundred years ago, I was stolen from my home in France (which, incidentally, was not the country I was painted in), but fortunately I was returned within a couple of years. I certainly didn't enjoy being moved around during that time, but I wasn't damaged, thankfully.

My creator was a man far ahead of his time; he was a scientist, an artist, an engineer and even an architect. Believe it or not, he once designed (and named) a prototype for a form of air travel! He was a very busy man indeed – in fact, it took him a long time to create me. But it was all worth it in the end; I'm famous now and so is he.

I'm known by two names, the first is my first name and the other is my surname. You know me, don't you?

1. Answer these questions. Then read the text on Worksheet B and check your answers.

1. Who, or what, am I?
2. Who was my creator?
3. Where (in France) is my home?
4. What are the two names I am known by?
5. What is it about me that people don't understand?
6. Where was I painted?
7. How long did it take to create me?
8. Who stole me?
9. After I was stolen, where was I found?
10. Which aircraft did my creator design and name?

WORKSHEET B

2. Read the two newspaper extracts and check your answers to 1.

London Times

23 August 1911

Theft of masterpiece rocks art world

The unthinkable has happened. Someone has stolen the Mona Lisa, to the horror of Paris and the art world.

The thief slipped into the Louvre during the night and took off with Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece. Curator Albert Marceau, who heard news 1) _____ the theft this morning, is said to be worried 2) _____ what the world will think 3) _____ the Louvre's security arrangements. He said "Only a madman would take such a famous picture. A man capable 4) _____ this is capable 5) _____ anything. We are very proud 6) _____ our security here at the Louvre, but this man is obviously good 7) _____ his work and we are most concerned we were not able to prevent this crime 8) _____ happening. I cannot imagine, however, him selling this painting anywhere in the world."

Police investigating the theft agree 9) _____ M. Marceau that this is the work of an extremist. They are relying 10) _____ any information they can get from members of the public who might have been in the vicinity of the museum between midnight and five o'clock this morning.

Nobody at present, though, can explain how the museum's most carefully guarded attraction just vanished. This, like Mona Lisa's smile, remains a mystery.

London Times

31 December 1913

Mona Lisa smiles once more

Today, 1) _____ Louvre in Paris welcomes back 2) _____ old friend more than two years after she went missing. Recovered less than three weeks ago in Florence, 3) _____ city in Italy where she was originally painted, 4) _____ Mona Lisa has been restored to her rightful home. 5) _____ man, named as Vincenzo Perugia, has been arrested in connection with 6) _____ theft.

Completed in 1506, 7) _____ portrait, which took four years to paint and is also known as *La Gioconda*, was 8) _____ work of artist Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519). He employed a technique known as *sfumato*, in which light and shade interact, causing ambiguity in the picture such as the exact time of day and the enigmatic expression of the subject herself. Among the other achievements of 9) _____ artist was the fresco of *The Last Supper* and the design for 10) _____ flying machine which he called a *helicopter*. Although his design was not used in the end, 11) _____ name he gave 12) _____ machine remains unchanged.

3. Complete the first extract with one preposition in each space.

4. Complete the second extract with *a*, *an* or *the*

Jack Kerouac and the Beat Generation

Jack Kerouac, the father of the Beat Generation was born on March 12th, 1922. He might still have been alive today were it not for the reckless way in which he and his friends lived – half died young and half went on to become famous writers/poets in their own right. In this lesson we take a look at this extraordinary group of people, and particularly Jack Kerouac, who shaped the United States of the 1950s and the generations to come.

Level: Upper Intermediate and above

How to use the lesson

1. You may want to find some pictures of typical ‘beatniks’ and show your students as an introduction to the lesson. The web sites below may help.
2. Tell your students you are going to ask them to read a text and then you are going to give them some questions about the text. Give each student in the class a copy of Worksheet A and four minutes to read it and remember as many facts as they can.
3. When they have finished reading, divide the class into two groups, A and B. Give all ‘A’ students the half of Worksheet B that says Student A. Give all ‘B’ students the half of Worksheet B that says Student B. Ask them to work together (in pairs or small groups) to re-order the questions and then answer them. Remind them that the first word of each question is in **bold** type. Be on hand to help both groups as this stage may prove tricky.
4. When they have finished re-ordering and answering the questions, ask students to form new pairs, Student A with Student B. Each student takes it in turns to ask and answer the questions (without checking their pieces of paper). Each correct answer is worth 1 point.
5. Check answers in open class.
6. If you wanted to extend the activity further, you could ask pairs to write some more questions for each other to answer.

Questions (Answers in italics)

Student A

- a. What was Jack Kerouac’s original name? *Jean-Louis de Lebris Kerouac*
- b. The works of which writer did Jack enjoy reading? *Thomas Wolfe*
- c. Which newspaper did Jack work for? *The Lowell Sun*
- d. Between the mid 40s and 50s, what did Jack spend his time doing? *Travelling*
- e. In what ‘style’ was *On The Road* written? *A style called ‘spontaneous prose’*
- f. What was the cause of Jack Kerouac’s death? *Prolonged alcoholism*

Student B

- a. *Joual* is a dialect of which language? *French*
- b. Which sport was Jack good at? *Football*
- c. What was Jack’s first novel called? *The Town and the City*
- d. Can you name Jack Kerouac’s most famous work? *On The Road*
- e. In which year was it published? *1957*
- f. Dark clothing was the trademark of which group of people? *Beatnik*

The Beat Generation

WORKSHEET A

Jack Kerouac was born Jean-Louis de Lebris Kerouac on March 12th, 1922 in Lowell, Massachusetts, USA. The grandson of French-Canadian immigrants, Jack spoke *joual*, a dialect of French.

Jack grew up during the Great Depression, which made life hard for him and his family. It was made even harder when his elder brother died of rheumatic fever at the age of nine.

At junior high school Jack loved reading. He particularly enjoyed the works of writer Thomas Wolfe, and was greatly influenced by his writing style. Jack was not only creative he was also athletic and was an excellent football player. His football skills earned him a scholarship to Columbia College, but after breaking his leg and falling out with the team captain, he quit both team and college.

Jack returned to Lowell and worked as a sports reporter for the Lowell Sun newspaper for a few months. He then left Lowell again and drifted to Washington D.C. and then Boston before enduring a brief stint in the Navy.

In 1944 he met and made friends with a group of creative but disillusioned young men: Allen Ginsberg, Lucien Carr, William S. Burroughs and handsome streetwise cowboy Neal Cassady. The following year Jack started work on *The Town and the City*, a novel about his difficulties balancing a wild city life with his old-fashioned family values. The book was published in 1950 and earned Jack critical respect, but it didn't sell well and Jack remained an unknown.

Between the mid 1940s and the mid 1950s, Jack spent a lot of time on the road, travelling from one side of the States to the other, mostly with his friend Neal Cassady. In the early 50s he wrote these experiences down in his most famous work *On The Road*. He wrote in a new style that was later called 'spontaneous prose', which is like a stream of thoughts written down as they occur. The result gives the reader the impression that they are witnessing events in real time.

Although *On The Road* wasn't published until 1957, it brought Jack the fame and recognition that he had wanted for his first book. He became the voice of a generation of people who were exhausted or 'beat down' by post-war life in the States. As the 'father' of this new Beat Generation, Jack Kerouac was as famous as 50s actor James Dean for rebelling against a society which he felt held no place for him.

Increasingly at odds with what he saw around him, and uncomfortable as the famous figurehead of a movement he could no longer relate to, Jack turned to alcohol. He died in 1969 from the effects of prolonged alcoholism, at the age of 47.

It is impossible to imagine 1950s America without Jack Kerouac's Beat Generation, with their 'live hard, die young' motto, their close associations with jazz music and their dark clothing, which was the trademark of the 'beatniks'. These were the forerunners of the hippies, even though they themselves were not always the best advocates of love and peace.

The Beat Generation

WORKSHEET B

Student A

1. Re-order these questions and then answer them. The first word is always in **bold**.
 - a) original \ was \ **what** \ name \ Jack Kerouac's \ ?
 - b) young Jack \ writer \ did \ **the** works \ enjoy reading \ which \ of \ ?
 - c) **which** \ Jack \ newspaper \ work \ did \ for \ ?
 - d) spend his time \ what \ **between** \ Jack \ did \ the mid 40s and 50s, \ doing \ ?
 - e) *On The Road* \ was \ written \ **in** \ 'style' \ what \ ?
 - f) death \ cause \ the \ Jack Kerouac's \ of \ **what** \ was \ ?

2. Now ask Student B the questions above. Each correct answer is worth 1 point.



The Beat Generation

WORKSHEET B

Student B

1. Re-order these questions and then answer them. The first word is always in **bold**.
 - a. dialect \ is \ language \ of \ **joual** \ a \ which \ ?
 - b. at \ sport \ Jack \ **which** \ good \ was \ ?
 - c. was \ **what** \ called \ first \ novel \ Jack's \ ?
 - d. name \ you \ Jack Kerouac's \ **can** \ famous \ work \ most \ ?
 - e. which \ published \ **in** \ year \ it \ was \ ?
 - f. people \ **dark** clothing \ group of \ trademark \ which \ of \ was \ the \ ?
- g. 2. Now ask Student A the questions above. Each correct answer is worth 1 point.

Graham Greene

Writer Graham Greene was born one hundred years ago. For over sixty years he wrote novels, screenplays, poems, articles, plays, short stories and even travel books. His novels are written in a contemporary realistic style, often featuring characters troubled by self-doubt and living in seedy or rootless circumstances. The doubts are often of a religious nature, perhaps echoing Graham Greene's own Roman Catholic beliefs. This week we celebrate the life of this man, one of the twentieth century's most distinguished writers.

Level: Upper intermediate and upwards

How to use the lesson

1. Divide the class into Group A and Group B. Give one copy of Worksheet A to each student in Group A and one copy of Worksheet B to each student in Group B.
2. Tell your students they have the same text, but there is some information missing from each worksheet in Exercise 1. Explain that they are going to ask a member of the other group some questions to help them complete the text, but first they need to prepare the questions.
3. Ask the students to work together to prepare and write down the questions they need to ask to complete the text.
4. When all the students have prepared their questions, ask a student from Group A to work with a student from Group B. They should take it in turns to ask and answer the questions they have prepared and write the answer in the space in their text.
5. When both students have finished asking and answering, allow them to compare worksheets.
6. Check answers in open class.
7. Ask students to work in pairs to complete Exercise 2. Check answers in open class.
8. Ask students to work in pairs to complete Exercise 3. Check answers in open class.

Answers

Ex 1 Suggested questions:

1. *When was he born?*
2. *Where was he born?*
3. *Why was he teased at school?*
4. *What did he attempt (on a number of occasions)?*
5. *Who did his parents send him to see?*
6. *Who did his therapist introduce him to?*
7. *Where did he go (when he was 18)?*
8. *What did he study (at Balliol College)?*
9. *What did he (also) become?*
10. *Where did he go to work (after graduation)?*

11. *Who did he meet (in Nottingham)?*

12. *Who did he marry (in 1927)?*

Ex 2 a) a b) the c) - d) the e) the f) the/- g) - h) the/a i) the j) the
k) - l) the m) the n) a o) the p) the q) the r) a s) the

Ex 3 1) to 2) for 3) for 4) in 5) on 6) with 7) in 8) in 9) to 10) of
11) of 12) in 13) in 14) in

Graham Greene

WORKSHEET A

1. Complete the questions below. Then ask your partner the questions and complete the text.

Graham Greene was born on (1) _____, in Berkhamsted, England. He had a difficult childhood – he was teased at school because (3) _____. He attempted suicide on a number of occasions. His parents sent him to see (5) _____ when he was 15. His therapist encouraged him to write and introduced him to his circle of literary friends.

When he was 18, Greene went to (7) _____, where he studied modern history. He also became (9) _____. After graduation he went to work at *The Nottingham Journal*. In Nottingham he met (11) _____, who encouraged Greene to convert to Catholicism. In 1926 he became a Catholic and in 1927 he married Vivien. They had a daughter, Lucy Caroline and a son, Francis.

- 1 When _____?
- 3 Why _____?
- 5 Who _____?
- 7 Where _____?
- 9 What _____?
- 11 Who _____?

2. Complete the following with *a/an, the* or – (nothing)

He began writing full time after publishing *The Man Within* (1925), which was (a) ___ critical and commercial success. During (b) ___ 1930s he also wrote (c) ___ film reviews, becoming one of (d) ___ most respected critics of (e) ___ time. He later did some screenwriting for (f) ___ cinema, (g) ___ most famously (h) ___ screenplay for (i) ___ film *The Third Man*, which won first prize at (j) ___ Cannes Film Festival in 1949.

His travels in (k) ___ Mexico in 1938 and his shock at (l) ___ religious persecution he witnessed there inspired him to write *The Lawless Roads* (1939). He published another novel on (m) ___ same topic, *The Power and the Glory* (1940), which was (n) ___ great critical success. It won (o) ___ 1941 Hawthornden Prize, but (p) ___ Vatican didn't like it very much. Catholic bishops and cardinals who read (q) ___ book felt it painted (r) ___ very negative picture of (s) ___ priesthood.

3. Complete the following with the words in the box

in on of for with to

Throughout his life, Greene often travelled (1) ___ unsettled parts of the world looking (2) ___ material (3) ___ his writing. His novel *The Quiet American* (1955) is about American involvement (4) ___ Indochina; *Our Man In Havana* (1958) is based (5) ___ his travels in Cuba; *The Comedians* (1966) deals (6) ___ a repressive regime in Haiti; *The Honorary Consul* (1973) is set (7) ___ Paraguay and *The Human Factor* (1978) in South Africa. His interest (8) ___ Central American politics led (9) ___ him meeting leaders like Fidel Castro and Manuel Noriega. He was critical (10) ___ the United States and (11) ___ Ronald Reagan (12) ___ particular. Graham Greene died peacefully (13) ___ Switzerland (14) ___ 1991.

Graham Greene

WORKSHEET B

1. Complete the questions below. Then ask your partner the questions and complete the text.

Graham Greene was born on October 2, 1904 in (2) _____. He had a difficult childhood – he was teased at school because his father was the headmaster. He attempted (4) _____ on a number of occasions. His parents sent him to see a psychiatrist when he was 15. His therapist encouraged him to write and introduced him to (6) _____.

When he was 18, Greene went to Balliol College, Oxford, where he studied (8) _____. He also became the editor of a university newspaper. After graduation he went to work at (10) _____. In Nottingham he met Vivien Dayrell-Browning, who encouraged Greene to convert to Catholicism. In 1926 he became a Catholic and in 1927 he married (12) _____. They had a daughter, Lucy Caroline and a son, Francis.

2 Where _____?

4 What _____?

6 Who _____?

8 What _____?

10 Where _____?

12 Who _____?

2. Complete the following with *a/an, the* or – (nothing)

He began writing full time after publishing *The Man Within* (1925), which was (a) ___ critical and commercial success. During (b) ___ 1930s he also wrote (c) ___ film reviews, becoming one of (d) ___ most respected critics of (e) ___ time. He later did some screenwriting for (f) ___ cinema, (g) ___ most famously (h) ___ screenplay for (i) ___ film *The Third Man*, which won first prize at (j) ___ Cannes Film Festival in 1949.

His travels in (k) ___ Mexico in 1938 and his shock at (l) ___ religious persecution he witnessed there inspired him to write *The Lawless Roads* (1939). He published another novel on (m) ___ same topic, *The Power and the Glory* (1940), which was (n) ___ great critical success. It won (o) ___ 1941 Hawthornden Prize, but (p) ___ Vatican didn't like it very much. Catholic bishops and cardinals who read (q) ___ book felt it painted (r) ___ very negative picture of (s) ___ priesthood.

3. Complete the following with the words in the box

in	on	of	for	with	to
----	----	----	-----	------	----

Throughout his life, Greene often travelled (1) ___ unsettled parts of the world looking (2) ___ material (3) ___ his writing. His novel *The Quiet American* (1955) is about American involvement (4) ___ Indochina; *Our Man In Havana* (1958) is based (5) ___ his travels in Cuba; *The Comedians* (1966) deals (6) ___ a repressive regime in Haiti; *The Honorary Consul* (1973) is set (7) ___ Paraguay and *The Human Factor* (1978) in South Africa. His interest (8) ___ Central American politics led (9) ___ him meeting leaders like Fidel Castro and Manuel Noriega. He was critical (10) ___ the United States and (11) ___ Ronald Reagan (12) ___ particular. Graham Greene died peacefully (13) ___ Switzerland (14) ___ 1991

Mary Shelly

Mary Shelley, author of *Frankenstein* at the age of 19, died on February 1st 1851. This week we remember her with an A/B 'wh-' questions activity. There are two pages to print. Click [here](#) to get your copies.

Level: Intermediate and upwards

How to use the lesson

1. Elicit from your students what they know about the author Mary Shelley.
2. Divide the class into Group A and Group B. Give one copy of Worksheet A to each student in Group A and one copy of Worksheet B to each student in Group B.
3. Tell your students they have the same text, but there is some information missing from each worksheet. Explain that they are going to ask a member of the other group some questions to help them complete the text, but first they need to prepare the questions.
4. Ask the students to work together to prepare and write down the questions they need to ask to complete the text.
5. When all the students have prepared their questions, ask a student from Group A to work with a student from Group B. They should take it in turns to ask and answer the questions they have prepared and write the answer in the space in their text.
6. When both students have finished asking and answering, allow them to compare worksheets.
7. Check answers in open class.

Suggested questions:

1. What was the novel called?
2. Where was she on vacation?
3. What did they agree to write?
4. When was the story published?
5. When was Mary Shelley born?
6. What did her parents name her?
7. Who was Mary (mainly) brought up by?
8. Who had Percy Shelley come to see?
9. How old was she when they met again?
10. Where did they run away to?
11. Where did her husband drown?
12. Where did Lord Byron die?
13. When did he die?
14. What was her novel called?
15. When did she die?
16. How old was she when she died?

Mary Shelley

WORKSHEET A

By the time she was 19, Mary Shelley had written one of the most famous novels of all time. The novel, called 1) _____, tells the story of a young doctor who tries to create a living being but instead creates a monster. The story came about when she was on vacation in Lake Geneva with her husband Percy Bysshe Shelley, Lord Byron and John Polidari. At Byron's suggestion, they each agreed to write 3) _____. Mary was slow to come up with a story but after having a 'waking nightmare' in which she saw the doctor standing next to his hideous creation, she set about writing her story. The story was published in 1818, and became a bestseller.

Mary Shelley was born in 5) _____. Her parents named her Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin. Her father, William Godwin, and her mother, Mary Wollstonecraft, were two great intellectual rebels of the late 1700s. Mary was mainly brought up by 7) _____ as her mother died ten days after she was born.

Many famous writers and poets came to their house and one day in 1812 Mary met a young poet, Percy Shelley, who had come to see her father. Mary and Percy met again when she was 9) _____, in 1814, and fell in love. They ran away to France together and Mary became pregnant. However, tragedy struck as her first two children died due to illness and her half-sister Fanny committed suicide in 1816. These losses may have all contributed to the dark, gothic atmosphere she portrayed so vividly in her book.

In 1822, she suffered her greatest loss when her husband drowned in 11) _____ in a boating accident. Then her dear friend Lord Byron died of fever in Greece in 13) _____. She wrote a depressing novel called *The Last Man* in the same year, but never managed to find the same success as she had with her first book. She died in 15) _____ at the age of 53.

Write the questions.

- 1 What _____?
- 3 What _____?
- 5 When _____?
- 7 Who _____?
- 9 How old _____?
- 11 Where _____?
- 13 When _____?
- 15 When _____?

Mary Shelley

WORKSHEET B

By the time she was 19, Mary Shelley had written one of the most famous novels of all time. The novel, called *Frankenstein*, tells the story of a young doctor who tries to create a living being but instead creates a monster. The story came about when she was on vacation in 2) _____ with her husband Percy Bysshe Shelley, Lord Byron and John Polidari. At Byron's suggestion, they each agreed to write a horror story. Mary was slow to come up with a story but after having a 'waking nightmare' in which she saw the doctor standing next to his hideous creation, she set about writing her story. The story was published in 4) _____, and became a bestseller.

Mary Shelley was born in 1797. Her parents named her 6) _____. Her father, William Godwin, and her mother, Mary Wollstonecraft, were two great intellectual rebels of the late 1700s. Mary was mainly brought up by her father as her mother died ten days after she was born.

Many famous writers and poets came to their house and one day in 1812 Mary met a young poet, Percy Shelley, who had come to see 8) _____. Mary and Percy met again when she was 16, in 1814, and fell in love. They ran away to 10) _____ together and Mary became pregnant. However, tragedy struck as her first two children died due to illness and her half-sister Fanny committed suicide in 1816. These losses may have all contributed to the dark, gothic atmosphere she portrayed so vividly in her book.

In 1822, she suffered her greatest loss when her husband drowned in northern Italy in a boating accident. Then her dear friend Lord Byron died of fever in 12) _____ in 1824. She wrote a depressing novel called 14) _____ in the same year, but never managed to find the same success as she had with her first book. She died in 1851 at the age of 16) _____.

Write the questions.

- 2 Where _____?
- 4 When _____?
- 6 What _____?
- 8 Who _____?
- 10 Where _____?
- 12 Where _____?
- 14 What _____?
- 16 How old _____?

Bob Marley

Bob Marley was a pioneer of Reggae music and considered one of the greatest artists of his genre. This week we mark his birthday with an 'extra word' activity.

Level

Good Intermediate and above

How to use the lesson

1. Give each of your students a copy of the worksheet and ask them to fold their piece of paper in half so that only the first exercise is visible.
2. Divide the class into pairs and ask your students to work together to find the extra word (where appropriate) in each line.
3. Check answers in open class.

Answers

- | | |
|----------|---------|
| 1. the | 9. than |
| 2. ✓ | 10. ✓ |
| 3. who | 11. to |
| 4. much | 12. ✓ |
| 5. which | 13. a |
| 6. has | 14. did |
| 7. ✓ | 15. his |
| 8. that | 16. up |

4. Tell your students they have three minutes to complete the rest of the story (the bottom half of their piece of paper). If they are not moving too quickly, give them an extra minute.
5. When the time limit is up, stop your students and ask them to check their answers with the person sitting next to them.
6. Check answers in open class.

Answers

1. of 2. in 3. in 4. In 5. on 6. to 7. to 8. In 9. at 10. of 11. of
 12. in 13. of 14. on 15. for 16. to 17. of 18. for

Bob Marley - Soul Rebel

1. Read the story of Bob Marley. There are sixteen lines. Twelve of them contain one extra word. Find the extra words and write them in the column on the right. The first two lines have been done as examples.

1	Robert Nesta Marley was born in Saint Ann, Jamaica on February the 6 th , 1945. His	<u>the</u>
2	mother was an 18-year-old black girl named Cedella Booker while his father was a	<u>✓</u>
3	50-year-old white army captain who named Norval Marley. Although he provided	_____
4	financial support for them, Norval rarely saw his family much. In 1958 Cedella and	_____
5	young Robert moved to the capital, Kingston, and settled in a shanty town which	_____
6	called Trenchtown. Young Robert, now calling himself Bob, has formed a group	_____
7	called the Wailers with his two friends, Bunny Livingston and Peter Tosh. The group	_____
8	recorded in a style that called <i>ska</i> , a mix between New Orleans R&B and Jamaican	_____
9	<i>mento</i> . Soon the bouncy beat of <i>ska</i> gave way to <i>rock-steady</i> , a slower and more than	_____
10	sensual rhythm. This rhythm developed into a beat known as <i>reggae</i> .	_____
11	In 1966 Bob met Rita Anderson and married to her just four days after his 21 st	_____
12	birthday. The following year he converted from Christianity to Rastafarianism, a	_____
13	religion that has had a profound effect on a reggae music. The Rastafarians	_____
14	recognized Haile Selassie I, King of Ethiopia, as the living God. They did also praised	_____
15	the spiritual effects of his marijuana and believed in black racial superiority. By the	_____
16	end of the sixties Bob Marley had established himself as a rising up star.	_____

2. Complete the rest of the story. Put a word from the box into each space. Some words are used several times. The first two have been done as examples.

of to in on for at

However, during a period 1) of political and economic turmoil 2) in Jamaica 3) _____ the Seventies, he cultivated a rebel image. 4) _____ 1976 gunmen broke into his house and shot him in a politically-motivated attack. He survived the attempt 5) _____ his life but decided 6) _____ re-settle in Europe. Over the next two years he brought his music 7) _____ Europe and America and became the first reggae artist to achieve international stardom. 8) _____ 1980, 9) _____ the age 10) _____ 35, he developed cancer as a result 11) _____ a toe injury he had suffered 12) _____ a game 13) _____ football three years earlier. He died a year later, 14) _____ May 11th, 1981. Bob Marley's music remains highly popular, and 15) _____ many it continues 16) _____ symbolize the hopes 17) _____ the downtrodden 18) _____ a better life outside the urban ghettos.

Mozart and Schubert

On January 27th it's Mozart's birthday and on January 31st, it's Schubert's birthday. But having their birthdays in the same month is not the only similarity between these two classical giants. This worksheet starts with a quiz and ends with a text on each of them.

Level:

Intermediate and upwards

How to use the lesson:

1. Divide your class into pairs. Give each student a copy of Worksheet A. Ask them to read each question in the quiz and write either M (Mozart), S (Schubert) or B (Both of them). Make it clear they must work as a partnership and produce only one answer for each question.
2. Give each pair one half of Worksheet B and ask them to read their half, without showing it to their partner. Pairs check their answers together.
3. Check answers to see which pair answered the most correctly.

Answers:

1. S 2. B 3. S 4. B 5. M 6. S 7. M 8. M 9. B 10. B
 11. M 12. S 13. B 14. S 15. B

Mozart and Schubert

1. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Franz Peter Schubert are two huge names in the world of classical music. But how much do you know about them? Do the quiz and find out.

If your answer is *Mozart*, write **M** next to the statement. If your answer is *Schubert*, write **S** and if your answer is *Both of them*, write **B**.

1. He was born and died in Vienna.
2. His talent was recognised from an early age.
3. He was a student of composer Antonio Salieri.
4. He died before he reached 36.
5. He was famous in his lifetime.
6. He wrote many songs, including *Ave Maria*.
7. He was married with two children.
8. He earned a lot of money from his music.
9. He died a poor man.
10. His memorial is in Zentralfriedhof (the largest cemetery), in Vienna.
11. He was a member of the secret society, the Freemasons.
12. He was a great fan of the composer Beethoven.
13. He was part of the movement called the Viennese School.
14. He worked as a schoolteacher.
15. He was a composer of the Classical Era (1750-1820).

2. Work in pairs. Read one half of Worksheet B. Then work together with your partner to check your answers to the quiz.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

was born in Salzburg on January 27th, 1756. His father, a musician and composer, saw that his son had a great talent. At the age of three, young Wolfgang could play tunes on the piano by ear, and by the age of six he was composing. His father took him on tour to play in the courts of Europe from the age of six. He became famous, but as he grew from boy to man he remained childish despite his musical genius.

In 1781, at the age of 25, he moved to Vienna. The following year he gave his first big concert and was a huge success. In the same year he married Constanze Weber. Over the next eight years they had six children but only two survived.

In 1784 Mozart joined the Freemasons. The period between 1784 and 1791 saw Mozart at his busiest. Although he made a lot of money from his music, he and his wife lived beyond their means and were always running out of money. His health suffered due to his increased workload and he died of kidney failure in Vienna on December 5th, 1791. He died poor and was buried in an unmarked grave. Many years later a memorial was erected in the Zentralfriedhof (the largest cemetery) in Vienna. There have been stories that he was murdered by composer Antonio Salieri (1750-1825) who was jealous of Mozart's genius. It seems unlikely as not only was Salieri a great fan of Mozart's, he also taught one of Mozart's sons. Another fan of Mozart's was Beethoven (1770-1827), a composer, like Mozart, of the Classical Era (1750-1820). Both Mozart and Beethoven belong to a group of composers known as the Viennese School.



Franz Peter Schubert

was a composer from the Classical Era (1750-1820) who belonged to a group of composers known as the Viennese School. Schubert's great gift was his poetry, and his many songs, like *Ave Maria*, remain as fresh today as when they were first written.

He was born in Vienna on January 31st, 1797. In 1808, at the age of 11, he passed an audition for the Imperial Chapel and entered the Stadtkonvit under the direction of the composer Antonio Salieri (1750-1825). Salieri recognised young Schubert's talent and remained his teacher long after Schubert had left the Stadtkonvit. At the age of 16 Schubert composed his first symphony. However, rather than rely on his music to provide him with an income, he trained as a teacher, like his father. While he taught, he continued composing, writing 600 songs, five symphonies and two masses by the time he was 20. The following year Schubert left teaching and decided to become a

freelance musician. Although his output was extensive, he didn't really earn much money from it. He relied on his close circle of well-connected friends to provide food and accommodation. At the time of his death, only less than 100 of his 1,000 songs had been published. The rest were not published until more than 40 years after his death.

Schubert was a great fan of the composer Beethoven (1770-1827), and carried a torch at the funeral of the great man, in 1827. 10,000 people gathered at Beethoven's funeral, whereas only a handful were in the same place one year later to bury Franz Schubert who, at 31 years old, had died of typhoid. Schubert's memorial is next to Beethoven's in the Zentralfriedhof in Vienna.

Martin Luther King

Martin Luther King was born on January 15th, 1929. Throughout his short life he devoted himself to the pursuit of equality for all. His method was non-violent resistance, a method which proved surprisingly effective. Read all about the man and his work in this worksheet.

Level

Upper Intermediate

How to use the lesson

1. Start the lesson by asking what your students know about Martin Luther King. Accept all offers, whether right or wrong at this stage.
2. Divide the class into pairs. Give a copy of Worksheet A to each pair and ask them to work together to decide which statements are true. Encourage your students to guess an answer for each statement even if they are not sure about them. (If your students have no idea, let them look at the questions on Worksheet A for one minute before giving them Worksheet B to read. Afterwards they should return to Worksheet A and answer the questions from memory.)
3. When everyone has finished guessing, give each student in the class a copy of Worksheet B. Ask them to check their answers and count up how many they got right.
4. Ask the students to correct the statements which were wrong.
5. Check answers in open class.

Answers

1. True
2. False (He was born in Atlanta, Georgia.)
3. True
4. False (His father was a preacher.)
5. False (He married Coretta.)
6. True
7. True
8. False (His role model was Mohandas Gandhi.)
9. True
10. False (His famous speech is called 'I Have a Dream'.)
11. True
12. False (He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.)
13. False (He was actually arrested more than 20 times.)
14. True
15. False (His killer's name was James Earl Ray.)
16. False (Since 1986 the official Martin Luther King Day has been on 20th January.)

Martin Luther King

WORKSHEET A

1. Look at these 16 statements about Dr. Martin Luther King. Tick (✓) the statements you think are true.

Tick (✓) if true

- 1) He was named Michael when he was born.
- 2) He was born in California.
- 3) He was well educated and had many university degrees.
- 4) His father was a bus driver.
- 5) He never got married.
- 6) He was a preacher.
- 7) He believed all people should be equal.
- 8) His role model was Mohammad Ali.
- 9) He travelled more than 6,000,000 miles spreading his message.
- 10) His famous speech is called 'I Had a Funny Dream Last Night'.
- 11) In 1963 he was named Man of the Year by *Time* magazine.
- 12) He was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, but did not win it.
- 13) Despite taking part in many demonstrations, he was never actually arrested.
- 14) He was assassinated.
- 15) His killer's name was Lee Harvey Oswald.
- 16) The official Martin Luther King Day in the U.S. is on January 15th.

2. Read Worksheet B and check your answers. Correct the false statements.

Martin Luther King

WORKSHEET B

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr

On April 4th, 1968, the sound of a rifle shot rang out across Memphis, Tennessee. On the balcony of a small hotel a man lay dying from the assassin’s bullet. He was a 39-year-old preacher named Martin Luther King.

Martin Luther King came into the world on January 15th, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. When he was born he was named Michael but he later changed his name to Martin.

He graduated with a B.A. degree from Morehouse College in 1948. He then went on to earn a Bachelor of Divinity degree and finally became a Doctor of Philosophy at Boston University in 1955. By this time however, he had already been a Baptist minister (like his father and grandfather) for seven years and had been married for two years, with his wife Coretta expecting their first child.

King had long fought for civil rights and from 1955 until his death he devoted himself to fighting injustice, and particularly pushed for the right of all people, black or white, to have equal opportunities and status.

While he was a student, King had been inspired by the philosophy of Mohandas Gandhi, the Indian whose non-violent social protest provided King with a role model.

Between 1955 and 1968 he travelled over six million miles and spoke on more than 3,000 occasions. He delivered his speeches in the true style of a Baptist preacher, with rich eloquence and passionate conviction. And the people listened. In 1963 he gave his famous ‘I Have a Dream’ speech at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. in front of 250,000 supporters. In the same year he was named Man of the Year by *Time* magazine. The following year, at the age of 35, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, making him the second American and the third black man to win the award.

He continued to work tirelessly, getting arrested more than twenty times along the way, until that evening when he leaned over the balcony to speak to his friend, the Reverend Jesse Jackson. His assassin, James Earl Ray, took aim and fired.

For many years after his death January 15th, his birthday, became the unofficial Martin Luther King Day. In 1986 President Ronald Reagan declared January 20th the official Martin Luther King Day. It is a national holiday in the United States, a day on which to reflect on the remarkable achievements of a man who inspired others to look for a peaceful, non-violent solution to all their problems. *Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.*

Princess Diana

Princess Diana

This week's lesson takes a look at one of the most famous women of the twentieth century: Diana, Princess of Wales. Her wedding to Prince Charles at St Paul's Cathedral in London, an event that attracted one of the biggest ever global television audiences, took place on 29th July 1981.

Level

Pre-intermediate and above

How to use the lesson

1. Brainstorm what your students know about Princess Diana.
2. Divide the students into pairs, then give them each a copy of Worksheet A. Tell them that the text on the worksheet contains precisely twenty mistakes, and it is their job to work together in order to find and correct them. Allow at least 10-15 minutes for this task. Mention that in a few cases there is more than one way of correcting the mistakes.
3. Check answers in open class by referring to Worksheet B, which contains the corrected text with all the changes highlighted, then give every student a copy of Worksheet B and Worksheet C.
4. Ask the students to read the text again and then give the pairs a couple of minutes to answer the six true/false questions on Worksheet C. Check answers in open class.

Answers

Part A (20 mistakes/corrections): see Worksheet B

Part B (true/false)

1. F
2. F
3. F
4. T
5. T
6. T

Princess Diana

WORKSHEET A

On 29th July 1981, Diana Spencer got married to Prince Charles, the oldest son of Queen Elizabeth II, at St Paul's Cathedral at London. About one billion people watched the wedding on television.

Diana, who was only twenty years at the time, became Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales. Less than a year earlier she had been a shy teenager working on a kindergarten in London, but after the wedding she has been in the public eye every days until her death on a car accident in Paris in August 1997. It is probably true to say that when she died she is the most famous woman in the world.

Diana born in the county of Norfolk in the east of England. Her family was rich and aristocratic, and had connections with the British royal family. At school she enjoyed sports and music (especially singing) more than studying, and hoped to become a ballerina. She got engaged to Prince Charles on February 1981, not long after they had met for the first time. Though their wedding was a happy event, things probably started go wrong soon afterwards. Most people would now agree that they were never right for each other, but at the time there was very pressure on Prince Charles to get married, and the Royal Family seemed to think that Diana, despite her age, would make an appropriate husband.

Diana and Charles have two children – William and Harry, born in 1982 and 1984 – before they separated in 1992.

Diana was famous partly because her beauty and elegant clothes, and the way she made the British royal family more glamorous than it is before. However, from the late 1980s a lot of people also began to admire her for her charity work, particularly the time she gave to charities for people with AIDS.

The reaction to Diana's suddenly death showed how popular she had become. Her funeral was an emotional event, with hundreds of thousands of people watching as a car took her coffin through the street of London.

Maybe the key to Diana's popularity was that she seemed more informal and emotional than other members of the British royal family. Despite her glamour lifestyle she seemed like normal person, which helps explain why many people still call her the "People's Princess".

Princess Diana

WORKSHEET B

On 29th July 1981, Diana Spencer got married to Prince Charles, the oldest son of Queen Elizabeth II, at St Paul's Cathedral **in** London. About one billion people watched the wedding on television.

Diana, who was only **twenty years old** at the time, became Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales. Less than a year earlier she had been a shy teenager working **at** a kindergarten in London, but after the wedding she **was** in the public eye every **day** until her tragic death **in** a car accident in Paris in August 1997. It is probably true to say that when she died she **was** the most famous woman in the world.

Diana **was born** in the county of Norfolk in the east of England. Her family was rich and aristocratic, and had connections with the British royal family. At school she enjoyed sports and music (especially singing) more than studying, and hoped to **become** a ballerina.

She got engaged to Prince Charles **in** February 1981, not long after they had met for the first time. Though their wedding was a happy event, things probably started **to go** wrong soon afterwards. Most people would now agree that they were never right for each other, but at the time there was **a lot of** pressure on Prince Charles to get married, and the Royal Family seemed to think that Diana, despite her age, would make an appropriate **wife**.

Diana and Charles **had** two children William and Harry, born in 1982 and 1984, before they separated in 1992.

Diana was famous partly **because of** her beauty and elegant clothes, and the way she made the British royal family more glamorous than it **had been** before. However, from the late 1980s a lot of people also began to admire her for her charity work, particularly the time she gave to charities for people with AIDS.

The reaction to Diana's **sudden** death showed how popular she had become. Her funeral was an emotional event, with hundreds of thousands of people watching as a car took her coffin through the **streets** of London.

Maybe the key to Diana's popularity was that she seemed more informal and emotional than other members of the British royal family. Despite her **glamorous** lifestyle she seemed like **a normal** person, which helps explain why many people still call her the "People's Princess".

Princess Diana

WORKSHEET C

A

The text on Worksheet A contains twenty mistakes. Can you find and then correct them?

B

Now, using Worksheet B, decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

1. Princess Diana was a teenager when she got married.
2. After the wedding she slowly started to become famous.
3. Most people are still surprised that Princess Diana's marriage to Prince Charles was not a success.
4. Princess Diana used to dress very well.
5. Many people thought she seemed different from other members of the British royal family.
6. At school she was interested in dancing.

Bonnie and Clyde

Few stories have captured the imagination quite like the story of Bonnie and Clyde, the latter-day Romeo and Juliet of Depression era gangsters. This brief account spans the last two years of their lives leading up to May 23, 1934 when they met their fate in the middle of the Louisiana countryside. Packed with relevant vocabulary, this text would fit perfectly into a lesson about crime and the law.

Level

Lower Intermediate and upwards

How to use the lesson

1. Ask your students what they know about Bonnie and Clyde. If you don't expect them to have heard of them, it may help to use a photo or direct them to the web addresses below.
2. Tell your students that they are going to answer some questions about Bonnie and Clyde but first they are going to read a short story about their final two years. Give each student in the class a copy of Worksheet A and tell them they have five minutes to read it.
3. After five minutes, ask your students to stop reading. Divide the class into pairs and give each student a copy of Worksheet B. Ask them to find the name of the police chief by answering questions 1-10.
4. The first pair to have answered all the questions correctly and found the name *Frank Hamer* is the winner.
5. Check answers in open class.

Answers:

1. four 2. waitress 3. jail 4. gun 5. Buck 6. hardware 7. Great Depression 8. poem
9. Blanche 10. truck

Bonnie and Clyde

Read the story of Bonnie and Clyde.

Four days before Christmas 1929, nineteen-year-old Bonnie Parker was making hot chocolate at a friend's house when a man called Clyde Barrow walked through the door. It was love at first sight. At the time, Bonnie was working as a waitress in a small café and Clyde was just entering the world of crime as a petty thief.

Shortly after they met, Clyde was arrested and sent to jail. Although his sentence was short (his crime wasn't very serious), he asked Bonnie to smuggle a gun into the prison so that he could use it to escape. He was re-arrested two weeks later, and given a much longer sentence. He was released on February 8, 1932, after serving only two years.

Just over a month after his release, he and his gang (which now included Bonnie) robbed a hardware store. In April they robbed another, this time killing a man. Over the next year, this happened on four more occasions with two policemen among the victims. By now Bonnie and Clyde had become famous; people all over the United States were cheering them on in their fight against the law. Many Americans had lost faith in the legal and political system after losing everything they owned in the Great Depression. In the economic climate of the time, Bonnie and Clyde became national heroes.

On April 14, 1933, Bonnie and Clyde were hiding out in Joplin, Missouri, with Clyde's brother, Buck, and his wife, Blanche. Meanwhile, the police had gathered outside and were waiting to arrest them. In the shoot-out which followed, two officers were killed, but the gang members managed to escape unharmed.

Two months later, on the run, an exhausted Clyde failed to see a road sign and crashed their car, seriously burning Bonnie's leg. A little while later, the gang booked into some tourist cabins for an overnight stay, but, once more, the police surrounded them. This time they were not so lucky. Bonnie and Clyde escaped but Clyde's brother, Buck, was killed and his wife, Blanche, was arrested and later imprisoned.

Both Bonnie and Clyde were very close to their families. On May 6, 1934, they arranged a family meeting outside their hometown of Dallas, Texas. Both of them knew they were going to die soon and Bonnie gave her mother a beautiful poem which she had written.

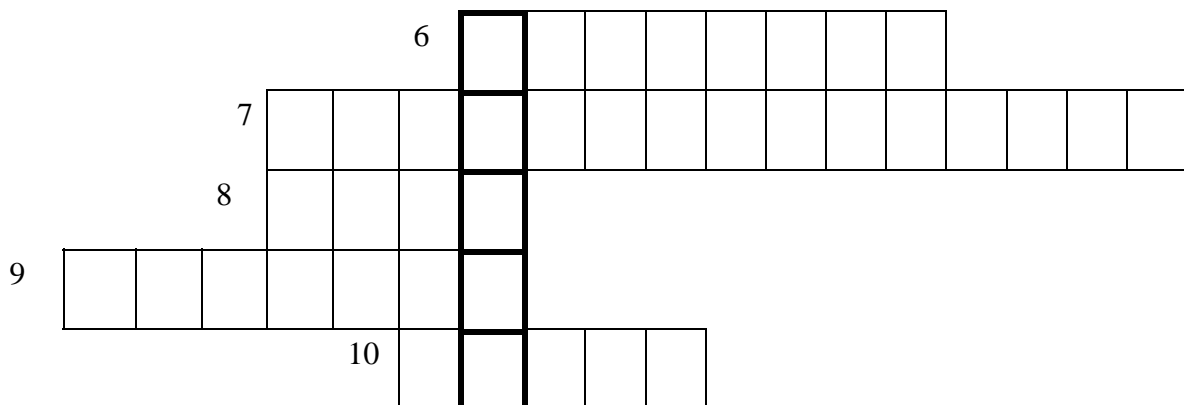
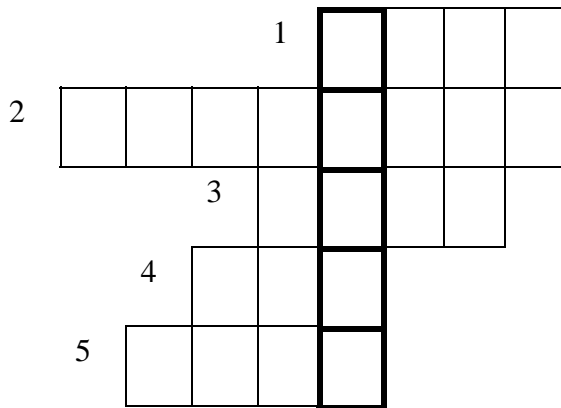
Eighteen days later, on May 24, 1934, driving along a small country road in Louisiana, Bonnie and Clyde slowed down when they saw a friend's truck at the side of the road. They didn't realize that there were a group of police officers hiding behind the trees, waiting for them. The police chief gave the signal and the officers started shooting, quickly killing the young lovers.

The story of Bonnie and Clyde lives on in people's hearts and minds as a tragic, romantic story of a modern day Romeo and Juliet, with machine guns.

Bonnie and Clyde

2. Answer the questions. Write your answers in the crossword puzzle to reveal the name of the police chief who hunted, and finally caught, Bonnie and Clyde.

1. How many days before Christmas, 1929, did Bonnie and Clyde meet? (4)
2. What was Bonnie's job? (8)
3. Where did Clyde go soon after they met? (4)
4. What did Bonnie bring him to help him escape? (3)
5. What was Clyde's brother's name? (4)
6. A month after Clyde's release from prison, what kind of shop did they rob? (8)
7. What was the name of the difficult economic climate in America at that time? (5,10)
8. What did Bonnie give her mother at their last meeting? (4)
9. Who was caught and sent to prison after the car crash? (7)
10. What did Bonnie and Clyde see at the side of the road, just before they died? (5)



Pocahontas

On April 5th, 1614, Pocahontas married English settler John Rolfe in Jamestown, Virginia. The story of this young Native American woman has been made famous by the Disney studios, but what was her true story? Read on and find out.

Level

Pre-Intermediate upwards

How to use the lesson

1. Brainstorm what your students know about Pocahontas and find out who has seen the Disney animated motion picture.
2. Give each student a copy of Worksheet A and five minutes in which to read it. Students shouldn't write anything down at this stage.
3. After five minutes stop your students. Ask them to turn over their pieces of paper.
4. Give each student a copy of Worksheet B. Tell them that by answering the questions they can find the meaning of the name Pocahontas. Divide the class into pairs and ask students to work together to answer the questions and write the answers in the grid.
5. Check answers in open class. If the questions have all been answered as below, the translation of the name Pocahontas should read *Playful Little Girl* from top to bottom.

Answers

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. Chesapeake | 6. Dale | 11. Rebecca |
| 2. Algonquian | 7. Christianity | 12. King James I |
| 3. Matoaka | 8. Jamestown | 13. Virginia |
| 4. Rolfe | 9. Powhatan | 14. tuberculosis |
| 5. Samuel | 10. planter | 15. London |

Pocahontas

WORKSHEET A

Native North American Pocahontas was born around 1595 on the shores of Chesapeake Bay in Virginia. She was the daughter of the chief of a tribe of Algonquian Indians. The nearest town from her village was Jamestown. English traders and soldiers had settled in the area and made Jamestown their base.

Pocahontas, whose real name was Matoaka, used to go to Jamestown and visit the English. When she was twelve years old, Pocahontas saved an English captain, John Smith, from death at the hands of her father, Powhatan. Before Powhatan and his men could kill Smith, she laid her head on his to protect him. She became friends with Smith, which brought peace between the English and the Indians.

However, Smith was badly injured in an accident in 1609 and returned to England. When Pocahontas next visited Jamestown she was told (wrongly) that Smith was dead.

By 1613 relations between the English and the Native Americans had worsened and Pocahontas was taken hostage by English Captain, Samuel Argall. He wanted chief Powhatan to free his English prisoners and promised the safe release of Pocahontas in return.

While she was held at Jamestown, Pocahontas was converted to Christianity and baptized with a new name, Rebecca. A successful tobacco planter, John Rolfe, fell in love with her and asked Powhatan and the English governor Sir Thomas Dale for permission to marry her. They married on April 5th, 1614 and the marriage brought peace to Jamestown once more.

In 1616 Pocahontas sailed to England with her husband and several other Native Americans. She was dressed in beautiful clothes, received as a princess and even introduced to King James I.

In 1617, just as they were starting their voyage back to Virginia, it became clear that Pocahontas was very ill with tuberculosis. She was taken ashore at Gravesend, only a few kilometres downriver from London, where she died. She was 21 years old.

Pocahontas and her husband had a son in 1615, Thomas Rolfe. After her death, John Rolfe decided that their son should stay in England to be educated. John Rolfe returned to Virginia immediately, but his son didn't return until he was a young man, in 1640.

Pocahontas crossword

WORKSHEET B

Answer the questions. Write the answers in the crossword to reveal the meaning of the nickname Pocahontas.

1. Pocahontas was born on the shores of which bay? (10)
2. Which Native American tribe did she belong to? (10)
3. What was her real name? (7)
4. What was her husband's surname? (5)
5. What was the first name of the man who took her hostage? (6)
6. What was the surname of the English governor? (4)
7. What religion did Pocahontas convert to? (12)
8. Where were the English soldiers and traders based? (9)
9. What was Pocahontas's father's name? (8)
10. Pocahontas's husband was a tobacco ____ . (6)
11. What was Pocahontas's Christian name? (7)
12. Which famous person did she meet in England? (4,5,1)
13. Which American state (named after Queen Elizabeth I) did Pocahontas live in? (8)
14. What did Pocahontas die of? (12)
15. What is the nearest large city to Gravesend? (6)