

1. Kurt Cobain

The subject of this week's lesson is Kurt Cobain, who rose to international fame in the early 1990s as the lead singer of American pop group Nirvana. He was born on 20th February 1967.

Level

Intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Brainstorm what your students know about Kurt Cobain and Nirvana. Perhaps you could also discuss other 'iconic' pop stars, and/or the most successful pop musicians from the students' own country.
2. Divide the students into pairs and give them five to ten minutes to read through the text on Worksheet A, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. Tell them they are going to answer a series of questions on the text, but they shouldn't write anything down at this stage.
3. When the time is up, give each student a copy of Worksheet B, then divide the class into pairs and ask students to work together. In Part A they have to answer four true/false questions, while in Part B they have to complete the crossword in order to find the name of a popular Nirvana song.

Note: To make the crossword slightly easier you could provide your students with a few of the letters from the missing words. Alternatively, to make it more difficult, you could ask them to try to fill in the answers without referring back to Worksheet A.

4. Check answers in open class.

Answers

A

1. F 2. T 3. F 4. F

B

1. easy 2. baseball 3. wrote 4. album 5. teenagers 6. anger 7. drugs
8. original 9. drums 10. unusual

If the questions have all been answered, *About a Girl* should read from top to bottom.

2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/music/newsid_3601000/3601709.stm

A short biographical piece on Kurt Cobain from BBC *Newsround*, published on the tenth anniversary of his death. Aimed primarily at teenagers. Accessible to intermediate-level students.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/music/3568909.stm>

A longer and more difficult biographical piece from the BBC, appropriate only for upper-intermediate level. The article is followed, however, by a large number of comments from fans about what Cobain meant to them, some of which could be used at lower levels.

<http://www.nirvana-music.com/>

Nirvana fan site. Lots of material.