11 READING

THE AGE OF SELFIES

A



THE BIRTH OF THE SELFIE

Most of us take selfies now and then. Presidents, rock stars, actors, and sports stars all take them. It's very easy to take selfies on a smartphone. But the selfie isn't really a new idea. Back in 1839, a man named Robert Cornelius took the very first selfie. Cornelius was a photographer from Philadelphia, in the U.S. He took the picture of himself by setting up his camera and then running to stand in front of it. On the back of the picture, Cornelius wrote: "The first light picture ever taken. 1839."

B



WORLD'S BEST SELFIE?

Astronaut Aki Hoshide is the third Japanese astronaut to walk in space. But that's not the only reason he's famous. Hoshide created an amazing image! The astronaut took this picture while he was at the International Space Station. The photo shows him, the sun, and deep space in the same shot. He named it "Orbiting Astronaut Self-Portrait."

C



THE PSYCHOLOGY OF SELFIES

Why do people want to take pictures of themselves? Psychologists say that it's a way of understanding who we are. It's also a way of controlling how other people see us. When we take selfies, we can choose the flattering ones – the ones that make us look really good – and share them with our friends on social media or over text. Some people take their selfies very seriously. There are even apps people can use to make their faces look "perfect."

D



THE DAILY SELFIE

Several years ago, Poppy Dinsey started a fashion blog. She had a simple but great idea. Every day for a year she posted a selfie of herself wearing a different outfit. So one day, she's wearing jeans. Another day, she's wearing skinny pants and a baggy sweater. The next day, she's wearing a hip dress. People loved Poppy's blog. Many people started their own fashion blogs because they liked her so much.

A Match the descriptions with the pictures. Write the letter.

This picture is out of this world! _____
An old idea meets the twenty-first century. _____
My life in fashion. _____
The real me or the "perfect" me? _____

B Read the blog. Match each question with the correct answer.

1. What is Poppy Dinsey famous for? ____
2. Where did Aki Hoshide take a selfie? ____
3. Who says selfies are a way of understanding ourselves? ____
4. Who took the first selfie? ____
5. Where do many people post selfies? ____
6. What is Hoshide's job? ____

a. at the International Space Station
b. astronaut
c. on social media
d. psychologists
e. a fashion blog
f. a man from Philadelphia

C **PAIR WORK** What do you think of selfies? When and where do you take selfies? What's the main reason you take selfies?

LIVEWORKSHEETS