

Famous Biographies

3 READING

a Look at three more pictures from the National Portrait Gallery. Do you know who the people are or anything about them?



1. Why was Marilyn's life hard when she was a child?

2. Who were Joe Di Maggio and Arthur Miller?

3. Were there any men in The Supremes?

4. Why is The Supreme's music still popular today?

5. What was Thomas Edison good at when he was a boy?

6. Who was Thomas' second wife?

3 (47)) Read and listen to three audio guide extracts. Check your answers to a.

1 Marilyn Monroe was born in Los Angeles, California in 1926. When she was a child, her life was very hard. Her mother was sick, and her father wasn't there very much. Marilyn was a factory worker and a model before she was an actress. Marilyn's three husbands were very important to her during her life. Her first husband was a sailor, the second was a famous baseball player, Joe DiMaggio, and the last was a famous writer, Arthur Miller.

2 Mary Wilson, Diana Ross, and Florence Ballard were born in the 1940s in Detroit, Michigan. Together they were The Supremes, a pop and soul singing group during the 1960s. All three women were very talented singers. In 1965, the Supremes were the first all-female singing group to have a number one album in the US. Their music was popular with everyone—men and women, teens and adults—and it is still popular today.

3 Thomas Edison, an inventor and businessman, was born in Ohio in 1847. At 13, he was an excellent salesperson selling candy and newspapers to train passengers. Later, he was the inventor of the incandescent light bulb, a movie camera, and the phonograph. Edison was also the owner of many companies, and some of them are in business today, e.g., General Electric. He was the loving husband of two wives—Mary Stillwell (1855–1884) and Mina Miller (1865–1947)—and the father of six children.