

INSTRUCTIONS: Scan the article. Where was Kahlo from? What happened when she was 18? Who did she marry?



A Life in Paintings:

The Frida Kahlo Story

Mexican painter Frida Kahlo (1907–1954) was both a talented artist and a woman of great courage. Her paintings tell an amazing story of tragedy and hope.

At the age of six, Kahlo developed polio, and she spent nine months in bed. The illness damaged her right leg forever. Most girls didn't use to play sports back then, but Kahlo played soccer and took up boxing. Exercising helped Kahlo get stronger. Kahlo even dreamed of becoming a doctor one day.

At 18, Kahlo was in a terrible bus crash, and her destiny changed. She wore a full body cast for months because her injuries were so bad. But again, Kahlo refused to give up. She entertained herself by painting self-portraits. She said, "I paint myself because I'm often alone, and because I am the subject I know best."

Kahlo suffered from very bad health the rest of her life, but she continued to paint. Other artists began to recognize her talent – an unusual achievement for a woman at the time. In 1929, she married famous Mexican painter Diego Rivera, but their marriage was troubled. Kahlo once said, "There have been two great accidents in my life . . . Diego was by far the worst."

Kahlo became pregnant three times. Unfortunately, because of her injuries from the bus accident and her generally poor health, none of her babies survived childbirth. This sadness almost destroyed Kahlo. Her paintings often show a broken woman, both in heart and body.

When she traveled, Kahlo always attracted attention. She dressed in long traditional Mexican skirts, wore her hair in long braids, and let her thick eyebrows grow naturally. She chose to look different, and people noticed her beauty everywhere she went.

Kahlo died at the age of 47 in the house where she was born. Her life was short, but extraordinary. Her paintings still amaze people with their honesty and originality.



INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article. Find the following words and match them to the definitions below.

1. courage _____
2. tragedy _____
3. destiny _____
4. cast _____
5. recognize _____
6. injury _____

- a. ability to control your fear in a difficult situation
- b. accept that something is good or valuable
- c. damage to a person's body
- d. a special hard case that protects a broken bone
- e. the things that will happen in the future
- f. very sad event or situation

INSTRUCTIONS: Scan the article about Gael García Bernal. Where is he from? What does he do?

Gael García Bernal was born in 1978 in Guadalajara, Mexico. As a child, he began to act, and when he was a teenager, he became a star in television soap operas. He decided to go to London to study acting when he was 19. While he was in London, Mexican director Alejandro González Iñárritu invited him to act in the film *Amores Perros*. When it was released in 2000, *Amores Perros* immediately made Gael García Bernal known to the world.

Gael later made many other successful films. With the Mexican actor Diego Luna, he co-starred in *Y tu mamá también* in 2001, a film about two upper-class Mexican teenagers. In 2002, he won the Ariel, Mexico's most important film award, for *El Crimen del Padre Amaro*, the story of a young priest in a small town. Two years later, he worked with the Brazilian director Walter Salles on *The Motorcycle Diaries*, the story of a young Ernesto "Che" Guevara's journey by motorcycle through South America. That same year, Gael worked with the Spanish director Pedro Almodóvar on *Bad Education*. In 2007, Gael directed his first film, *Déficit*, which was about people at a weekend party in Mexico.

As you can see, Gael García Bernal is an international star who works on films in different languages. One of Gael's more recent projects is *Mozart in the Jungle*, an American TV show mostly in English. Gael won a Golden Globe Award in 2016 for playing the lead role, the talented conductor Rodrigo.

Despite his busy career, Gael spends as much time as possible with his son Lázaro and his daughter Libertad. He also likes to sing and make music when he is not acting.



INSTRUCTIONS: Check *True* or *False*. For false statements, write the correct information.

	True	False
1. Gael García Bernal studied acting in Paris. _____	☐	☐
2. A Brazilian director directed the film that made him famous. _____	☐	☐
3. He won an award for his role in <i>El Crimen del Padre Amaro</i> . _____	☐	☐
4. He has never directed a film. _____	☐	☐
5. He plays a singer in <i>Mozart in the Jungle</i> . _____	☐	☐
6. Gael prefers not to work in foreign language films. _____	☐	☐