



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## AMELIA EARHART

Do you love to fly in an airplane? Amelia Earhart sure did. This woman aviator took her first pilot lessons at the age of 23. On July 24, 1897, Amelia was born in her grandparents' home in Kansas. Her little sister was born two years later. Their grandparents had a lot of money, and so Amelia and her sister were sent to private schools and lived a privileged life. Their father, on the other hand, struggled to keep a job and eventually tore the family apart with his drinking. Her mother took the girls and moved to live with friends in Chicago.

Amelia went on to train as a nurse and served in the "Great War" as a volunteer nurse's aid. Afterwards, she enrolled as a pre-med student at Columbia University. It was in California that she first went to an "aerial meet." She boarded a plane that flew over Los Angeles. Amelia was in love. She couldn't get enough of flying.

This desire to fly encouraged her to take lessons from Anita Snook, and she bought her first plane. She began trying to break records. She was asked by George Putnam to try to be the first lady to fly across the Atlantic.

Many years later, Amelia had broken several records. She was the first woman to fly the Atlantic solo and the only person to fly it twice. She also flew the longest non-stop distance flown by a woman and set another record for crossing in the shortest time.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. Where would you read to find out about Amelia's first introduction to flying a plane?
  - a. first paragraph
  - b. second paragraph
  - c. third paragraph
  - d. fourth paragraph
2. The author probably wrote this passage to . . .
  - a. warn readers about the dangers of flying.
  - b. inform readers about Amelia's weaknesses.
  - c. inform readers of Amelia's record-setting history.
  - d. inform readers of Amelia's experience with George Putnam.
3. How many records did Amelia set which are listed in this passage?
  - a. one
  - b. three
  - c. six
  - d. four
4. Which of the following statements is not a fact about Amelia Earhart?
  - a. Amelia loved to fly airplanes.
  - b. Amelia was born in Kansas.
  - c. Amelia grew up flying airplanes.
  - d. Amelia went to private school.



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## JACKIE ROBINSON

Though he was born in Cairo, Georgia, in 1919, Jackie Robinson grew up in Los Angeles, California. Although African-American athletes were not accepted in all sports leagues at this time, Jackie's life would prove that athletes should be judged by their abilities and not by the color of their skin. Jackie would prove to be a star athlete. He was a star in not just one sport, but four: he ran track and played basketball, football, and baseball. Jackie began playing professional baseball in the Negro American Baseball League. But after two years, he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers. No other African-American had ever been allowed to play in the major leagues.

Not everyone thought that an African-American person should play in the major leagues. The fans and some of the other players treated Jackie very poorly. They were trying to get him to leave the league. The opposite happened: Jackie only worked harder and played harder. He managed to win the Rookie of the Year award and helped the Dodgers win the pennant. In 1949, he had the best batting average in the league and won the Most Valuable Player award.

Jackie continued to work hard and improve. He was also an excellent fielder and base runner. In the 10 years that Jackie played for the Dodgers, they won the pennant six times and the World Series championship once. In 1962, Jackie Robinson was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. Where would you read to find out about Jackie's experiences playing for the Dodgers?
  - a. end of the first paragraph
  - b. in the second paragraph
  - c. end of the third paragraph
  - d. second and third paragraphs
2. The author probably wrote this passage to . . .
  - a. inform the reader of the civil rights for all Americans.
  - b. inform the reader about Jackie's time as a batter.
  - c. inform the reader about Jackie's great accomplishments.
  - d. portray Jackie's commitment to helping others learn to play baseball.
3. What does the word *average* mean in this passage?
  - a. score in a baseball game
  - b. opening
  - c. level
  - d. percentage
4. Which of the following statements is not a fact about Jackie Robinson?
  - a. Jackie was successful because of hard work and determination.
  - b. Jackie let the fans and other players run him out of baseball.
  - c. Jackie was elected to the Hall of Fame.
  - d. Jackie played for the Brooklyn Dodgers.





Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## LANGSTON HUGHES

Langston Hughes was a famous poet and writer in the early 1930s. He became famous and was known as the voice of black people. The subject of all of his writing was about the lives of African Americans. Born in Joplin, Missouri, his family eventually moved to Ohio. He began writing poetry in eighth grade. Upon graduation from high school, he was voted the class poet.

By the age of 18, Langston saw his first poem published. The title of the poem was "The Negro Speaks of Rivers." For a short while, he attended Columbia University. He decided to make a trip to Africa. He boarded a ship and traveled to many countries in Africa and Europe. He would later go on to get a college degree.

One of his favorite things to do was to listen to jazz and blues music. This influence of music began to appear in his writing. He moved to Harlem, where he was editor. He devoted a great portion of his life to writing and speaking.

He wrote over 16 poetry books, two novels, and 20 plays, as well as children's poetry, musicals, operas, biographies, radio and television scripts, and dozens of magazine articles. He was able to influence many people with his writing.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. Based on the passage, what were some of Langston Hughes's writing interests?
  - a. writing about slavery
  - b. writing about the lives of black people, jazz, and blues
  - c. writing about being the first black poet
  - d. writing about experiences in foreign countries
2. After reading the passage, why do you think Langston wanted to travel to Africa?
  - a. He wanted to look up his ancestors.
  - b. He wanted to travel the world.
  - c. He wanted to see what life was like in Africa.
  - d. He was given free voyage and he didn't want to pass up the opportunity.
3. What is the main idea of the passage?
  - a. Through hard work and dedication, Langston was able to get African-Americans the right to vote.
  - b. Work before play is a good motto to live by.
  - c. Langston owed his life to the community in which he was raised.
  - d. Langston was able to portray African-American life, and he was able to help give African-Americans voice.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## ANNE FRANK

Anne Frank was a young girl who wrote a diary that has probably been read by more people than any other diary. Anne was born on June 12, 1929, in Germany. She lived during the time that Adolf Hitler was taking over Eastern Europe and exterminating the Jews and other non-Aryans who lived there. Her family escaped to the Netherlands, where they thought they would be safe. But Hitler and his armies eventually came to the Netherlands and attempted to round up all of the Jews.

Because of the kindness of friends, Anne's family was taken to an empty section of her father's office building, where they were hidden for almost two years. Anne had received a diary that she lovingly called Kitty. She wrote in her diary on a regular basis. This diary shared with the world what life was like living in this hiding place.

On August 4, 1944, the Frank family was betrayed. Someone told the German officers of the family living in the hiding place, and they were found. The family was sent to work in a camp. Anne and her sister, Margot, had to smash batteries. The acid burned the girls' skin. Anne and her sister would die of typhus just weeks before the British army liberated the camp.

Anne's diary was found by some of the workers in the building where they hid. The diary was published in 1947. The diary has been translated into 50 languages, and millions of copies of the book have been sold.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. Based on reading the passage, what was one of Anne's interests?
  - a. playing hopscotch
  - b. writing
  - c. helping and serving others
  - d. playing with her pet dog
2. What can you conclude about Anne Frank?
  - a. She was loved and adored by everyone.
  - b. She was able to accomplish many things in such a short time period.
  - c. She was learning to speak another language.
  - d. She lived a courageous life and shared her life in writing.
3. Which of the following statements is not true about Anne Frank?
  - a. Anne and her sister, Margot, had to smash batteries.
  - b. Anne learned to speak many languages.
  - c. On August 4, 1944, the Frank family was betrayed.
  - d. She wrote in her diary on a regular basis.
4. What is the main idea of paragraph three?
  - a. the descriptions of Anne's first diary entry
  - b. Anne's experience of living and working in the concentration camp
  - c. the experience of how Anne's family was freed from the camps





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## LEONARDO DA VINCI

Can you imagine being a famous scientist and a famous painter? It seems like an unusual combination, but that was exactly what Leonardo da Vinci was. He is known as one of the most intelligent people to ever live. He was born and raised in a town in Italy. He learned to paint from a famous artist in the city of Florence.

In the year 1478, he set up his own studio. He became known as the best painter in Florence. Leonardo had a way of painting that made the subjects look like they were real. They had the appearance of moving just as real people moved. Leonardo found the human body interesting, and he would study how it moved and how it worked.

In 1482, he moved to Milan. It was here that he painted one of his most famous paintings. It is called *The Last Supper*. But the paint that he used did not stick to the wall, so he had to repaint it. Leonardo eventually returned to Florence. It was here he painted another very famous painting. This painting is called the *Mona Lisa*. By this time, Leonardo was studying nature. He wanted to learn how birds flew. This interest encouraged him to draw plans for an airplane. He continued studying science after moving to Rome. He also lived in France. He is known throughout the world as a genius.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which statement best explains the success of Leonardo da Vinci?
  - a. He grew up in a wealthy family.
  - b. He learned how to paint from an apprentice.
  - c. He was fascinated with life and studied as much as he could.
  - d. He was motivated to earn a lot of prize money.
2. Where in the passage does it explain about Leonardo's first famous painting?
  - a. first paragraph
  - b. end of the second paragraph
  - c. second paragraph
  - d. beginning of the third paragraph
3. What made Leonardo's paintings with humans so interesting?
  - a. He was trying to make them into sculptures and paintings.
  - b. The subjects had the appearance of moving like real people.
  - c. He was the first to do them in 3-D.
  - d. He was the first to do people in oil paintings.
4. What is the author's opinion of Leonardo da Vinci?
  - a. unbiased and disinterested
  - b. impressed and appreciative
  - c. apathetic and interested