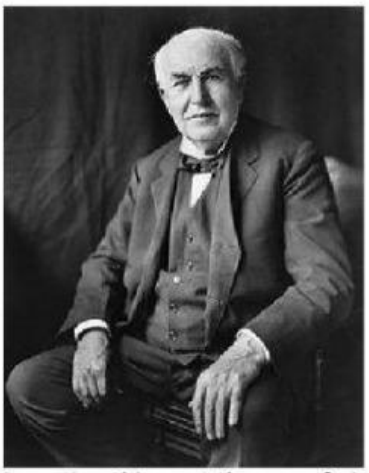
Complete the Stories with the Past Simple form of the verbs in brackets:



Thomas Edison

Thomas Edison (1) _____ (be) born in 1847 in Ohio in the United States. He (2) ____ (start) school at the age of eight but he (3) _____ (hate) it because on his first day the teacher (4) _____ (call) him stupid. After that, he (5) _____ (stay) at home a Lot of the time and (6) _____ (have) Lessons from his mother. He also (7)_____(read) a Lot of science books at home. He (8) _____ (go) back to school sometimes but he never (9) _____ (like) it very much. He (10) _____ (leave) school forever at the age of twelve and (11) _____ (get) a job with a newsagent. He (12) _____ (begin) inventing things at the age of nineteen. In 1877 he (13) _____ (invent) the phonograph, a sort of very early CD player! Two years later, he (14) _____ (make) the world's first electric Light bulb and New York (15) _____ (become) the first city to have electric lights.

Library of Congress

Ada Lovelace

Ada Byron _____ (be born) in London on 10 December, 1815. She _____ (be) the daughter of the famous British poet, Lord Byron and his wife, Annabella. Five weeks later, her parents _____ (separate). Her mother _____ (not want) Ada to be a poet like her father, so she _____ (teach) her Maths and Science. Ada was a Maths genius but she also had her father's imagination.

In 1828, when she was only thirteen, Ada _____ (design) a flying machine. Then, when she was eighteen, Ada _____ (meet) the inventor, Charles Babbage. She _____ (help) him with his work and he had a big influence on her life.

Ada _____ (marry) Lord Lovelace in 1835 and they _____ (have) three children. After that, she _____ (work) with Babbage on his new calculating machine. In 1843, she _____ (write) an article about it with a plan for calculating numbers. This plan was the first computer program.

Ada _____ (have) an important influence on computer history because she _____ (predict) the modern computer. In 1980, when American scientists _____ (invent) a new computer language, they called it ADA. Ada ¬_____ (die) on 27 November, 1852, at the age of 36.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Elvis Presley

Elvis Presley _____ (be) one of the most popular singers of his time. He was called 'The King of Rock 'n' Roll' and almost thirty years after his death, people still listen to his music.

Elvis Aaron Presley _____ (be born) on 8th January, 1935, in Mississippi, USA. He _____ (win) a singing contest at the age of six and played his first guitar at the age of eleven. As a young man, Elvis _____ (work) as a lorry driver before he became a singer.

He _____ (have) his first hit, 'Heartbreak Hotel', in 1956. In the same year, he _____ (make) his first film, 'Love me Tender'. In 1958, Elvis _____ (join) the army and went to Germany. There he _____ (meet) Priscilla Beaulieu. They _____ (marry) in 1967. Elvis _____ (become) one of the richest singers in history. During his lifetime he _____ (record) a large number of songs and many of them were big hits. He _____ (perform) his last concert on 26th June, 1977.

Sadly, Elvis _____ (die) a few months later on 16th August. He was only 42 years old. 'The King' is dead, but his legend lives on!

LEONARDO DA VINCI

LEONARDO DA VINCI (1452-1519) _____ (be) an incredible man. He _____ (work) as an architect, artist, mathematician and scientist. He also _____ (work) as a military engineer and _____ (be) a good musician. When he was a child, Leonardo _____ (like) school but he _____ (hate) Latin. In 1466, Leonardo's family _____ (move) to Florence and he _____ (finish) school. In 1482, he _____ (move) to Milan and _____ (start) to work for the Duke of Milan. He _____ (design) many buildings for the Duke. He also _____ (study) mathematics. His drawing of the *Anatomy of a Man* _____ (show) him to be a great biologist. In 1502, he _____ (return) to Florence and _____ (paint) the *Mona Lisa.* From 1514 to 1516, he _____ (live) in Rome and _____ (continue) his scientific experiments. He _____ (die) in France in 1519.

The interesting facts about this person are:

- Leonardo da Vinci _____ (write) from right to left - you _____ (need) a mirror to read his handwriting.
- He was a genius - he _____ (can) write one sentence with his right hand and a different sentence with his left hand.
- He _____ (invent) scissors.
- He _____ (draw) architect's plans but never built a building.
- He _____ (make) models and in his notebooks there were plans for a tank, a helicopter and a submarine.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

LIVEWORKSHEETS