1 ▶5:34 **READING** Read about Harry Houdini, a famous escape artist.

The Amazing HOUDINI



Harry Houdini was born Ehrich Weisz in Budapest, Hungary, on March 24, 1874. He came from a large family. He had six siblings—five brothers and one sister.

At the age of four, Ehrich moved with his family to the United States, first to Appleton, Wisconsin, and then later to New York City.

The family was poor, and young Ehrich didn't get an education and never graduated from school. Instead, he worked to help the family. Ehrich and his brother Theo were interested in magic, and at the age of seventeen, Ehrich began his career as a magician. He changed his name to Houdini, after the name of a famous French magician, Robert Houdin.

In 1893, Houdini married Beatrice Raymond, whom he called Bess. For the rest of Houdini's career, Bess worked as his assistant on stage. The couple didn't have children.

At first, Houdini wasn't very successful. But in 1899, he started to do "escape acts," in which he escaped from chains and handcuffs. People came to see him escape from chains and boxes underwater. In one famous act, Houdini escaped from a large milk can filled with milk. Houdini became rich and famous all over the world.



In 1926, Houdini was sick during a performance. After the show, he went to the hospital. But it was too late—Harry Houdini died at the young age of 52.

2 **READING COMPREHENSION** Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1 What was Houdini's original name? .....
2 Where was he born? .....
3 When did his family move? .....
4 Where did they move? .....
5 Did Houdini graduate from a university? .....
6 Did Houdini get married? .....
7 What was his wife's name? .....
8 Did the Houdinis have children? .....
9 When did Houdini die? .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS