

THE FIRST DETECTIVE



Read the article and do the multiple choice.

Who was the first modern detective: Sherlock Holmes? Hercule Poirot? Actually it was someone very few people have heard of: a Frenchman called François-Eugène Vidocq.

Vidocq was born on 24 July 1775. He was always getting into trouble, so his family made him join the army when he was 17. Unfortunately, things didn't get any better: at the age of 20, Vidocq went to prison for the first time.

Soon Vidocq became a skillful criminal. He escaped from prison so many times that he became very well-known. Finally, he decided to change. He went to the chief of police and offered to become a police spy. The chief agreed. Vidocq helped the police to catch so many thieves and murderers that the chief asked him to form a team of "detectives".

Vidocq was the first person to employ female detectives. His team had an equal number of men and women. He was also the first investigator to use methods which the police still use today: he and his team worked "undercover", pretending to be members of criminal gangs. They also used blood samples and fingerprints. Soon they were catching thousands of criminals a year.

In the 19th century Vidocq predicted that in the future "the scientist will be an even greater enemy to the criminal than the police". In the 21st century his prediction has finally come true.

1 Who was the first modern detective?

- A François-Eugène Vidocq
- B Sherlock Holmes
- C Hercule Poirot

2 When Vidocq was 20, he

- A got into trouble with his parents
- B was put in jail for the first time
- C was forced to become a soldier

3 Vidocq became famous for

- A escaping from prison
- B changing his name.
- C stealing from people

4 Who did Vidocq go to when he decided to change?

- A the chief of police
- B a spy
- C a famous policeman

5 Who suggested that Vidocq help the police?

- A the chief of police
- B Vidocq
- C a clever police officer

6 The first team of detectives had

- A more men than women
- B more women than men
- C as many women as men

7 Vidocq's methods

- A are used by teams of criminals
- B are used by modern police forces
- C are used to take blood samples

8 According to the writer, Vidocq's prediction about scientists

- A came true in the 1800s
- B may soon come true
- C has already come true