Talented women from history

1 Computer Countess

Ada, Countess of Lovelace (1815 – 1852) was the beautiful daughter of the well-known English poet, Lord Byron. When she was eighteen, she saw a 'calculating machine' – a primitive computer – and **talked to** its inventor, Charles Babbage. Ada was fascinated and began to **work with** him. She **thought of** mathematical calculations for his new machine and these were the world's first computer programs. Ada published her work but only used her initials because in those days women couldn't be scientists.

2 A forgotten Composer

Louise Farrenc (1804 – 1875) **came from** a family of artists but decided to **take up** music. At seventeen, she married another musician and they had a daughter. In her twenties, Louise started to compose music and her works were popular around Europe. In 1842, she became the first woman teacher at the Paris Conservatory. Louise's daughter was a brilliant pianist, too and often performed her mother's works. When her daughter died young, Louise stopped composing music for ever.

3 George or Mary Ann?

George Eliot was a great nineteenth-century novelist but George's real name was Mary Ann Evans (1819 – 1880). Mary Ann couldn't leave home until she was thirty because she had to **look after** her father. After his death, she went to London and became a writer. Mary Ann used a man's name because people did not take women writers seriously. Mary Ann **believed in** women's rights and her novels about life in small English towns **look at** women's place in society.

4 Mexican Magic

Frida Kahlo (1907-1954) was born in Mexico City. She had polio when she was young but studied to be a doctor. Then one day, while she was travelling on a bus, there was a terrible accident. When Frida was recovering in hospital, she started painting and **worked with** bright colors. In 1927, she married the painter, Diego Rivera. Frida was famous as his wife but her paintings only became very well-known after her death. After the accident, Frida was often in pain and you can see this in her strong, colourful self-portraits.

1 Who are these statements about? Put the names of the women form the text.

a) She was famous in her lifetime because of her husband –

b) She couldn't use her full name –

c) She is not very well-known nowadays –

d) She had to use a fake name –

2 Complete the sentences – choose a, b or c.

1 Ada Lovelace is important because she...

a) designed a calculating machine.
b) was the first computer programmer.
c) was the daughter of a famous artist.

2 Louise Farrenc stopped composing because...

a) of her teaching work.
b) of her child's death.
c) she married another musician.

3 Marry Ann Evans wrote novels about...

a) women's rights.
b) everyday life.
c) London society.

4 Frida Kahlo was...

a) very unlucky in her life.
b) very successful in her lifetime.
c) a successful doctor.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Multi-part verbs

3 Find the verbs (1-8) in blue in the texts and match them with the prepositions (a-h).

Text 1	**1** talk	**a)** at
Text 1,4	**2** work	**b)** in
Text 1	**3** think	**c)** to
Text 2	**4** come	**d)** after
Text 2	**5** take	**e)** from
Text 3	**6** look	**f)** with
Text 3	**7** believe	**g)** of
Text 3	**8** look	**h)** up

4 Complete the description with the correct form of the words from exercise 3.

Frida Kahlo 1)_____ Mexico City. She first 2)_____ painting professionally when she was in hospital. Two years later, she went to 3)_____ Diego Rivera about painting. She was twenty-one and he was forty-two but they fell in love. They both 4)_____ communism and Frida later became a friend of Leon Trotsky. Many of Frida's paintings were self-portraits and she 5)_____ very bright colors. When you 6)_____ Frida's paintings, you can also see the influence of Mexican culture and popular art.

Vocabulary

5 Complete the sentences with the pairs of words in the box.

~~came from / family~~	became / well-known	has performed / works
believed / rights	uses / initials	take / seriously

1 Emily Brontë ***came from a family*** of writers. Her sisters wrote books, too.

2 J K Rowling _____ her _____ when she publishes her Harry Potter books.

3 Mia Hamm was one of the first female football stars. She made people _____ women's football _____.

4 Emmeline Pankhurst _____ in women's _____. She fought for the vote for women in the 1800s.

5 Kiri Te Kanawa is an opera singer. She _____ by Mozart and Strauss all over the world.

6 Rosalind Franklin contributed to the discovery of DNA but she only _____ after her death.

6 Answer these questions.

1 Which of the women from the text do you think is the most interesting? Why?

2 Name some (3) famous contemporary (mūsdienu) women that you think are very talented. What do they do?

LIVEWORKSHEETS