BBC World Service – Witness – Advanced The Death of _____?_____





1: Do you know who the person in the pictures is?

YES	NO
Who is it? What do you know about him? Why is he often described as **infamous**?	Who do you think he might be? Why do you think he is often described as **infamous**?

2. Read the following information about Al Capone and discuss the meaning of the highlighted words.

Born: Alphonse Gabriel Capone, January 17, 1899, Brooklyn, New York, U.S.

Died: January 25, 1947 (aged 48), Palm Island, Florida, U.S.

Resting place: Mount Carmel Cemetery

Nationality: American

Occupation: **Gangster**, **bootlegger**, **racketeer**, boss of a Chicago **outfit**.

Religion: Roman Catholic

Criminal charge: **Tax evasion**

Criminal penalty: 11-year **sentence** in Atlanta U.S. Penitentiary and Alcatraz

Spouse(s): Mae Capone

Children: Albert Francis "Sonny" Capone (1918–2004)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Vocabulary

3: Match the words in bold to their definitions:

a. Well known for some bad quality or for negative actions. – **Infamous**

b. A husband or wife, considered in relation to their partner. - _____

c. The illegal non-payment or underpayment of money owed to the Government. - _____

d. The punishment assigned to a defendant found guilty by a court, or fixed by law for a particular offence. - _____

e. A group of people undertaking a particular activity together, especially a group of musicians, a team, or a business concern. - _____

f. A member of a gang of violent criminals. - _____

g. A person who illegally transports alcoholic beverages. - _____

h. A person who engages in dishonest and fraudulent business dealings. - _____

LISTENING 1

4: You are going to listen to a BBC podcast about the death of Al Capone. In the podcast, Capone's niece, Deirdre Marie Capone, talks about her memories of her uncle. Read the sentences below and try to predict the answers?

a. Her memories of her uncle are mostly positive/negative.

b. She was/wasn't aware of her uncle's occupation while he was alive.

c. Few/Many people showed their respect for Al Capone during his funeral procession.

d. After his death, her connection to Al Capone caused/didn't cause problems for her and her family.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

LISTENING 2

5. What can you remember? Try to complete sentences a-n. For the answers that you cannot remember, try to predict what type of word you will need i.e. a noun, a number, an adjective etc.

a. Al Capone was involved in the infamous **S**_____ **V**_____ **D**____ Massacre.

b. The day that Al Capone died was also Deidre's _____.

c. Al Capone was in his _____-_____ when he moved to Chicago?

d. He soon became a member of the **F**_____ **P**_____ **G**_____.

e. Many people viewed him as a modern day _____ _____.

f. Al Capone and the outfit were responsible for opening up the first _____ _____ in America.

g. Deirdre describes Al Capone's face as _____ and a little _____ on one occasion when she witnessed him doing business in her living room.

h. At that time, nobody in America had been sentenced to _____ _____ in jail before.

i. He had to have _____ injections in prison to treat a case of syphilis that he had contracted before he went inside?

j. Deidre didn't think that her uncle was being _____ properly in prison.

k. He died from a massive _____.

l. She describes her experience of her uncle's funeral as _____-_____.

m. Deidre lost her job at an _____ _____ due to her relation to Al Capone.

n. Deidre didn't tell her children about their _____ because of her own experiences.

Discussion Questions

- Why did people compare Al Capone to Robin Hood?
- Do you think people who make a living from crime should be **revered**?
- Was it fair for Al Capone to receive such '**harsh treatment**' when he was sentenced?
- Can you think of any other **infamous** people; living or dead?

LIVEWORKSHEETS