

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Father of Public Libraries

Few “rags to riches” stories compare to that of Andrew Carnegie, a Scottish immigrant who later became one of the most famous and wealthy industrialists of his time. He was born in Scotland in 1835. The son of a weaver, his family expected him to follow in his father’s steps. However, the Industrial Revolution changed their plans. Mechanized looms replaced weavers, and Andrew’s father had to beg for work. Carnegie vowed that when he was older, he would rise up out of poverty. At the same time, Carnegie learned from relatives about equality in the workforce and the rights of common workers.

Carnegie’s family fled to America to seek better opportunities. Carnegie began his career among the working class, taking jobs in factories and the telegraph industry. In each job he held, Carnegie did his best. He embraced new and greater responsibilities. In time, he followed a coworker from the telegraph office into the railroad business. He worked for the railroads

throughout the Civil War. After the war, Carnegie realized the potential of iron and steel. He resigned from the railroad to work for a bridge company before investing in the steel industry. Carnegie was willing to take incredible risks for the ideas and technology in which he believed. He said workers should form unions to protect their rights. However, Carnegie pushed his employees to work long hours for low wages. After working in the steel business for several years, he sold his company to J.P. Morgan.

Carnegie believed it was a disgrace to die rich. He turned his efforts to giving away his millions. Acting on his opinions that people should help themselves, he supported institutions of higher learning. Carnegie also established over two thousand libraries. He valued peace and built a “palace of peace” in the Netherlands that would later become an international court. Before he died, Carnegie gave away over 350 million dollars, a fortune even by today’s standards.

### Text Questions

1. What is one thing that might be said of Andrew Carnegie?
  - a. He wasn’t willing to put forth the effort.
  - b. Sometimes his actions didn’t match his words.
  - c. He was too short-sighted and didn’t make wise investments.
  - d. He supported slavery during the Civil War.
2. From the passage, you can infer that . . .
  - a. Carnegie’s investment in the steel industry was a risk.
  - b. Carnegie didn’t support unions.
  - c. Carnegie made most of his money working in a factory as a laborer.
  - d. Carnegie supported charities.
3. What is the main idea of the third paragraph?
  - a. It introduces Carnegie’s background and family life.
  - b. It explains why Carnegie was a successful businessman.
  - c. It describes Carnegie’s business career.
  - d. It describes the ways in which Carnegie invested his money in helping people.
4. What do you think Carnegie meant when he said it was a *disgrace* to die rich?
  - a. A person loses the respect of others if he has wealth and doesn’t help others with it.
  - b. People who are rich often behave poorly.
  - c. People who die rich are typically dishonest.
  - d. Their family would be unworthy of receiving the inheritance.
5. What can you apply to your own life from reading biographies about people such as Andrew Carnegie?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister**

Our younger years often help form our beliefs, and our experiences affect how we choose to live. Such is the case with Margaret Thatcher. She became the first woman to lead a western democracy. Thatcher grew up in a close community that had strong values. She learned self-reliance, honesty, and the value of charitable work. Thatcher took chemistry classes in college, but she had a greater interest in politics. While growing up, her father served as a counselor in their community and discussed current events and issues with her. Thatcher went to college at Oxford, where she was elected president of a student association. This was the beginning of her political experience.

Thatcher ran for the Labor seat at Dartford. She lost both times she ran but enjoyed the campaign and displayed strong public-speaking skills. She went on to train as a lawyer and was later elected to Parliament.

Thatcher held a variety of political offices. She gained further experience as Education Minister. Five years later, she was elected as the leader of the Conservative party. The Conservatives won the majority in Parliament in 1979, and the next day, Margaret Thatcher became the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

During her terms of political leadership, Margaret Thatcher helped revive the economy. She spoke out against the mindset of decline that had prevailed since World War II, and she helped reshape the nation's foreign policy. Her reforms and policies contributed to the spread of democracy and the growth of free markets during the period following the Cold War. Even though Thatcher's leadership role was controversial, today she is viewed as an influential and respected world leader.

**Text Questions** .....

1. Which of the following is not an area in which Margaret Thatcher was influential?
  - a. economic reforms
  - b. foreign policy
  - c. democratic ideals
  - d. space exploration
2. Based on the passage, what can you conclude about Margaret Thatcher?
  - a. She didn't understand economics.
  - b. She was concerned about the welfare of her country.
  - c. She wanted to become famous.
  - d. She struggled to maintain her grades in college.
3. What does the word *decline* mean as it is used in the third paragraph?
  - a. deterioration
  - b. rejection
  - c. acceptance
  - d. descending
4. What background and experience did Thatcher bring to her role as prime minister?
  - a. daughter of a counselor
  - b. elected to Parliament
  - c. lawyer
  - d. all of the above
5. As a female political leader, what are some ways Margaret Thatcher might have a lasting influence?  
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Author of Adventure**

A brief review of Gary Paulsen's life shows why he is such a prolific writer. When he was young, a librarian handed him a book and showed him how to obtain a library card. From that point on, Gary became an avid reader. He spent hours reading alone, which may have fueled his taste for adventure. Paulsen ran away from home at age 14 and traveled with a carnival. Add to that a summer of farm chores and two runs in an Alaskan dogsled race. Throw into the mix various jobs including engineer, construction worker, truck driver, and sailor. With his diverse history, Paulsen has a wealth of experiences from which to draw on to write his stories.

Taking a big risk, Paulsen left a job as a satellite technician to pursue the field of writing. He worked as a magazine proofreader while working on his own

writing at night. Later, he moved from California to Minnesota, renting a cabin by a lake. There, he wrote his first novel. During this time living in the woods, Paulsen tried his hand at dog racing. When forced to give up his dogs due to his health, Paulsen began to put the same energy he had devoted to dog training into his writing. According to Paulsen, he stays focused when he works, not doing anything else, which explains the number of books he has published.

Paulsen observes closely and cares about the world around him. He encourages his readers to do the same. These characteristics, along with his belief in young people, make him a popular author. Three of his books—*Hatchet*, *Dogsong*, and *The Winter Room*—have won Newbery Awards. With over 175 books published, Paulsen leaves readers with a lasting legacy.

**Text Questions** .....

1. What likely inspired Paulsen to write stories about survival in the wilderness?
  - a. He worked as an engineer.
  - b. He lived in the north Minnesota woods.
  - c. He liked to read.
  - d. He won awards for his writing.
2. Which is a synonym for the word *legacy* as it is used in the last paragraph?
  - a. gift
  - b. money
  - c. property
  - d. bequest
3. Which characteristics make Gary Paulsen a popular young-adult author?
  - a. He carefully observes the world in which he lives.
  - b. He has had a wide variety of experiences.
  - c. He believes in young people.
  - d. all of the above
4. Which of the following is not true about Paulsen's early life?
  - a. He was an avid reader.
  - b. He did chores on a farm.
  - c. He sailed on the ocean with his father.
  - d. He ran away from home to work with a circus.
5. Based on what you read in the passage, what might inspire you to read a book written by Gary Paulsen?

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Pelé**

Edson Arantes do Nascimento is known to the world as Pelé. He is considered by many experts to be the greatest soccer player in history. Pelé was named the Co-Player of the Century in 1999 by FIFA.

Pelé was born in Brazil and played professionally there for two decades. His performance in the 1958 World Cup made him a soccer legend. The national team won three World Cups during the time he played with them. Later in his career, Pelé joined a team in the North American Soccer League.

His father struggled to earn a living as a soccer player. That didn't stop Pelé from trying the game, even after growing up in poverty. No one knows for sure how he got the nickname "Pelé," but he had the name from the time he kicked a sock filled with rags in the streets.

While playing on a youth team in Brazil, his coach suggested he try out for the Santos professional soccer club. Pelé was 15 and scored his first goal within the

year. He went on to score many more goals for his team. Based on his performance, he was recruited to play for the national team. Pelé was a key player in Brazil's World Cup win in 1958, and he also helped the team win even more championships.

After Pelé joined the New York Cosmos, he helped make soccer more popular in the United States. His final game was an exhibition game between New York and Santos. In that game, he competed for both sides. Over the course of Pelé's career, he scored 1,283 goals!

Since retiring from soccer in 1977, he has continued to stay busy. Pelé has served as Brazil's Minister for Sport, and he has been a United Nations ambassador for ecology and the environment. In 1975, Pelé also won the International Peace Award for his work with UNICEF.

It's easy to see why at one point in his career, Pelé was named Brazil's "national treasure."

**Text Questions** .....

1. In what year did Pelé help the Brazilian team win the World Cup?  
a. 1940  
b. 1958  
c. 1974  
d. 1977
2. Which factor has probably not contributed to Pelé's popularity?  
a. He used to kick a sock filled with rags in the streets.  
b. Pelé joined the New York Cosmos, which helped make soccer more popular in the United States.  
c. In his final exhibition game between New York and Santos, Pelé competed for both sides.  
d. Over the course of Pelé's career, he scored over 1,200 goals.
3. How much time does two *decades* represent?  
a. two years  
b. ten years  
c. twenty years  
d. forty years
4. In which paragraph can you read about Pelé's contributions to humanity?  
a. in the first paragraph  
b. in the second paragraph  
c. in the fourth paragraph  
d. in the sixth paragraph
5. What can you learn from this inspirational sports figure?  
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\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Harland David Sanders**

Harland David Sanders is better known to most as Colonel Sanders, the founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Harland Sanders was born in a small shack in September of 1890. Six years later his father died, leaving Harland to watch over his siblings while his mother entered the workforce. His duties at home included cooking, and within a year, he had begun to develop quite an aptitude as a cook. Following his mother's remarriage, he left home and subsequently dropped out of school in his early teens.

Throughout his life, he worked a wide variety of odd jobs. He was a farmer, insurance salesman, mule tender, and among other things, a political candidate. While working at one of his jobs as a service-station operator, he began cooking chicken. He sold it as part of a boxed meal for hungry travelers who stopped in for gas.

His food became so popular that he was listed in the popular restaurant guide *Adventures to Good Eating*.

In 1935, the governor made him a Kentucky Colonel for his contributions to regional cooking. Less than five years later, he purchased a motel and restaurant. Within a year, he had perfected his "secret recipe" for pressure-cooked chicken, but when World War II broke out, he lost most of his business and was forced to close.

After the war, he franchised his Kentucky Fried Chicken for the first time. Sanders spent the next several years developing his business. After one of his restaurants failed due to low traffic flow, Sanders began franchising in earnest.

He became the first fast-food owner to expand internationally. At one point, there were 600 restaurants. He eventually sold the chain of restaurants and traveled thousands of miles each year as a goodwill ambassador for the franchise.

Success came late in life for Colonel Sanders, and he gave heavily back to charities. Even today, over thirty years after his death, his trusts continue to provide money for charities and scholarships.

**Text Questions**

- What inspired Harland Sanders to develop a chicken recipe?
  - His siblings' favorite food was chicken.
  - He learned to cook chicken while working on a farm.
  - While working at a service station, he sold cooked chicken as part of a boxed meal.
  - He knew he would be able to franchise his recipe and sell it to many people.
- Which word best characterizes Harland Sanders?
 

a. lazy	b. procrastinator	c. persistent	d. greedy
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- Which of the following is true about Harland Sanders' life?
  - He watched over his siblings and helped at home with the cooking while his mother entered the workforce.
  - His recipe for cooking chicken failed miserably.
  - After one of his restaurants failed due to low traffic flow, Sanders gave up on his dream of franchising.
  - Success came early in life for Colonel Sanders.
- What does the word *franchise* mean as it is used in the text?
  - freedom from restriction
  - a special right or exemption granted by the government
  - the right to vote
  - the right to market a product in a specific area
- What can we learn from reading about Harland Sanders and his life?

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Walt Disney's Greatest Storyman**

Sometimes we think more about how animation is created than the people behind the scenes. Bill Peet has written and illustrated over thirty books for children, and he is one of the major storytellers behind well-known animated movies.

Bill Peet began to develop his creative abilities at a young age. Peet grew up in Indianapolis, near the edge of the city, with access to the countryside. He also had the opportunity to visit his grandfather's farm, which bordered wilderness. Those experiences, combined with trips to the zoo, provided the foundation for future drawings of animals. When Peet entered school, his constant drawing sometimes became a problem, although one teacher encouraged his drawing. He dared to dream of a career in which he could put his drawing habit to use. He won a scholarship to an art school after high school and studied there for three years.

After art school, Peet needed to figure out a way to earn a living. He heard that Walt Disney was looking for

artists, so he moved to California. There, Peet sketched and planned screen stories. He eventually became a storyman. Animated movies are made up of many individual drawings. Peet did the complete storyboards for two movies, *The Sword in the Stone* and *101 Dalmatians*. He also worked on *Peter Pan*, *Dumbo*, and *The Jungle Book*.

Peet's children's stories began as bedtime stories for his sons. He illustrated his stories with many animals and some people, too. Peet claims the reason for this is he loves to draw animals.

Bill Peet used different media for his drawings. He drew in pastels, pencils, and ballpoint pen. He dabbled in oil painting for a brief time. Many of his book illustrations are done in colored pencils and ink.

Two of Peet's animated works won awards. He's more well-known, though, as "Walt Disney's Greatest Storyman."

**Text Questions** .....

- Based on the passage, which of the following movies did Bill Peet not work on?
  - A Bug's Life*
  - Dumbo*
  - 101 Dalmatians*
  - The Jungle Book*
- What does the word *access* mean as it is used in the second paragraph?
  - able to approach
  - a way of using something
  - the ability to get to a place
  - to retrieve data from a computer
- What inspired Bill Peet's drawings of animals?
  - the countryside near his home
  - his grandfather's farm and wilderness
  - visits to the zoo
  - all of the above
- What characteristic might have contributed to Disney's acceptance of Peet as a main storyman?
  - his high-school drawings
  - his ability to write and illustrate stories
  - his growing up in the city
  - his oil paintings
- How can your passions and abilities relate to possible careers in the real world? Give examples to support your answer.