

Writing a biography

TASK 1) Put the topics below in a logical order. Check the glossary (p.2).

Family

(parents/siblings)

Death

(date/country/city etc)

Birth

(date/country/city etc)

Achievements

(why this person is important)

**Adult life/important
events**

Title

(create interest)

**Early life/childhood/young
adult**

Glossary:

- 1) pain: *dor*
- 2) siblings: brother and sister
- 3) achievements: *proezas; conquistas; feitos*
- 4) polio: serious illness that affects the legs
- 5) recover: get better
- 6) tram: *eléctrico*
- 7) injure (V): *ferir; magoar*

- 8) mirror: *espelho*
- 9) self-portrait: *auto retrato*
- 10) weigh (V): *pesar*
- 11) dove: *pomba*
- 12) sadness: *tristeza*
- 13) scary: *assustador*
- 14) die (V): *morrer*

TASK 2) Put the paragraphs about the painter Frida Kahlo in the correct order and match them with the pictures (a to g). Words in the glossary (p.2) are underlined.

a)

Later, in 1929, Frida married Diego Rivera, a famous Mexican painter. He was much older and much taller than her. They were opposites: he weighed 160 kg and was 1,80 m tall. Her family was not happy. They called them the elephant and the dove. Only Frida's father came to the wedding ceremony.

They had a difficult life together. Frida wanted to become a mother but because of her accident she couldn't have a baby. She developed a special relationship with animals. They helped her with the constant pain and sadness. In 1953 the doctors amputated Frida's right leg.

b)

Finally, in 1954, Frida died in her parents' house, the Casa Azul. She was only 47 years old. Today her house is a museum. You can visit it in Mexico or, virtually, on the internet.

c)

Frida Kahlo: the art of beauty, pain and love

d)

She was the daughter of a German emigrant, Karl Wilhelm Kahlo and a Mexican mother, Matilde Calderón y González. Her father was a well known photographer.

e)

Frida Kahlo is one of the most significant artists of the 20th century. She was a feminist; she inspired women (and men) to be more than what society wanted them to be. She also inspired the famous artists she met. Her surrealist art celebrated Mexican culture and the female spirit. She is known all over the world for her unique art: beautiful, cruel and sometimes scary. In 2002, Frida's life was the subject of a film with Mexican actress Salma Hayek.

f)

At the age of six, Frida was diagnosed with polio. It affected her for the rest of her life because she had to stay in bed and couldn't walk.

When Frida was fourteen a tragic accident changed her life completely. On 17th September 1925, Frida and her boyfriend Alejandro Arias were on a bus. It collided with a tram in a violent crash and Frida was very badly injured: she had many fractures in her legs, ribs, foot, and spine. The doctors thought she was going to die.

It was a slow and painful recovery. Alejandro disappeared from her life. Her mother installed a special bed for her, with mirrors, so she could paint. She painted self-portraits because that was all she could see.

g)

Magdalena Carmen Frida Kahlo was born on 6th July 1907, in Coyoacán, in Mexico City.






