



Date \_\_\_\_\_

## MADAME CURIE

Madame Curie was a great scientist who made many great discoveries. Her story is one of inspiration and determination. She was born Maria Skłodowska on November 7, 1867, in Warsaw, Poland. Poland was in turmoil and her family struggled to make ends meet. Maria's parents were teachers, and they taught their children the importance of school. Maria went on to graduate with honors from high school at 16. She lost her mother and her oldest sister to disease, and Maria struggled with a nervous illness. She went to the countryside to live with cousins.

Maria returned to Warsaw where she and her sister attended a "floating university." The classes were held at night, and they had to avoid being caught by the police. They eventually left for Paris where she received a degree in physics and math. It took many years as she had to put her sister through school and then she put herself through school.

Marie eventually married Pierre Curie. Madame Curie, along with her husband, discovered two radioactive elements. This work laid the foundation for future discoveries in nuclear physics and chemistry. She and her husband received the Nobel Prize for Physics. Madame Curie would go on to receive another Nobel Prize for Chemistry eight years later. Madame Curie's work was credited with making great strides in science.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. Based on the reading passage, what interests did Marie have?
  - a. how to win the Nobel prize
  - b. how to run an experiment
  - c. math and chemistry
  - d. physics, chemistry, and math
2. Marie worked so that she could . . .
  - a. be trained in how to run experiments.
  - b. go to school.
  - c. graduate from school.
  - d. put her sister through school and then herself.
3. What is the meaning of the word *credited* as used in the last paragraph?
  - a. added to
  - b. known for
  - c. increasing debt
  - d. disregarded
4. What is the main idea of paragraph three?
  - a. Curie's discoveries and contributions to science
  - b. Curie's family background
  - c. Curie's love of science
  - d. Curie's choice of partner and husband



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## FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

Florence Nightingale is best remembered as the “lady with the lamp,” but her efforts in nursing made a lasting impact. She was the pioneer of nursing as we know it today, and she also set the standard for hospital sanitation methods.

Because of her efforts, hospitals were cleaned and sanitized. This helped prevent endless deaths due to filth and disease. These changes saved many lives.

Florence was born on May 12, 1820, in Florence, Italy. She was named after this city. She was born to a wealthy family. They were surprised when Florence announced that she wanted to become a nurse, turning down many invitations to marry. At this time, nurses were usually working class women. Her desire to be a nurse was reinforced when she met Elizabeth Blackwell, the first female doctor in the United States. They were crusaders for changes in health care.

During the Crimean War, Nightingale volunteered her services to care for the wounded soldiers. Nightingale was appalled with the conditions she found in the army hospital. Diseases such as dysentery, typhus, and cholera were killing more soldiers than the war wounds.

Nightingale worked to change the cleanliness and sanitary conditions at the hospital. One of her greatest achievements was to set up a nursing school and to bring nursing to a level of respect.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What conclusions can be drawn about Florence’s family?
  - a. They were religious and dedicated to missionary work.
  - b. They were wealthy and lived a life of luxury.
  - c. They were hard working and persevering.
  - d. They were lazy and undetermined.
  
2. Which statement explains why Florence’s changes in hospital conditions and procedures were so effective?
  - a. They were cutting edge procedures on cleanliness.
  - b. People had the same experiences that Florence had in the hospitals.
  - c. Books were written about Florence Nightingale.
  - d. none of the above
  
3. What is the meaning of the phrase “crusaders for changes in health care” that is used in the passage?
  - a. They were connected and couldn’t get apart.
  - b. They were willing to sacrifice and get sick together.
  - c. They didn’t like the male doctors so they spent time together.
  - d. They paved a new path in the health care profession and for women.



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## JIM THORPE

Jim Thorpe was one of the greatest athletes to ever live. In fact, Sweden's King Gustav V called Thorpe the "greatest athlete in the world." Thorpe did not have a life of luxury, but he was able to accomplish many things. James Francis Thorpe was born in 1887 in a one-room cabin in Oklahoma. He was a Potawatomi Indian and a descendent of the great Sauk and Fox Chief Black Hawk. He was born a twin, but his brother died at the age of nine.

Jim participated in the 1912 Olympics for the United States, even though he did not become a U.S. citizen until 1919. At the Olympic Games, Jim won the gold in both the pentathlon and the decathlon events. He came back from Sweden with \$50,000 worth of trophies.

A month later, the Amateur Athletic Union filed charges against Thorpe. They said he had played summer baseball with the Rocky Mountain Club for money, which discredited his amateur status. Jim had played for a small amount of money, but he was stripped of his medals and trophies. The same year after the Olympics were over, Jim led his team to the national collegiate football championship. From there, Jim went on to play six years with major league baseball.

Jim was the only American to excel as an amateur and professional in three major sports. Jim Thorpe's Olympic medals were returned posthumously on October 13, 1982. After his death, a town in Pennsylvania was renamed "Jim Thorpe" in his memory.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why was Jim Thorpe named the greatest athlete of the year?
  - a. He was able to win a medal at the Olympics.
  - b. He was highly talented in many sports.
  - c. He was injured and was still able to run in the Olympic finals.
  - d. He was the favorite to win the Heisman trophy.
2. After reading the passage, what can you infer about Thorpe's upbringing?
  - a. He was born in very humble circumstances.
  - b. Not much is known about Thorpe's upbringing.
  - c. He was given the best athletic training.
  - d. He was born into an average family.
3. Which statement does not explain Thorpe's experience with the Amateur Athletics Union?
  - a. Thorpe was happy to be recognized by the union.
  - b. Thorpe was treated strictly by the union.
  - c. Thorpe was stripped of his medals by the union.



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## CLARA BARTON

There are many famous faces of the Civil War, but one that stands out as a source of comfort and strength is Clara Barton. The Civil War was a horrible war. There were so many killed or wounded on both sides. To be wounded during the Civil War would often mean death. There were not very many hospitals, doctors, and no trained nurses that could help care for the wounded soldiers. There was also a lack of medical supplies, medicines, and sanitary conditions.

Clara Barton was 40 years old when the Civil War started. She was working in Washington, D.C. She began hearing of all the wounded soldiers and quit her job working in the Patent Office. She traveled to the battlefields to care for the wounded soldiers. She was a hard worker with skill and dedication. She was appointed to be the superintendent of nurses for one of the Union armies. After the Civil War had ended, her work was not finished. She began searching for soldiers that were missing.

Clara's life became a mission to help others. She established the American branch of the Red Cross in 1881. She was the first president and held this position for 22 years. Clara saw to it that the Red Cross was available to help in other wars as well as in disasters throughout the world. Clara's legacy at the Red Cross is still felt. She made a major impact, and her example is one to be followed today.



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. Another good title for this reading passage could be . . .
  - a. "The Red Cross."
  - b. "Honoring a Nurse."
  - c. "Clara Barton: The Amazing Nurse."
  - d. "Clara Barton and Her Patients."
  
2. Which of the following is a similarity between Florence Nightingale and Clara Barton?
  - a. They both graduated from nursing school together.
  - b. They both worked hard to make a difference in caring for others.
  - c. They both were reprimanded by male doctors.
  - d. They both helped during the Civil War.
  
3. In the last paragraph, what does the word *impact* mean?
  - a. targeted
  - b. hit
  - c. insight
  - d. influence



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## *RUDOLPH GIULIANI*

Rudolph Giuliani was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1944. He was a natural leader. He went to college and then law school. He became a lawyer working for the U.S. Justice Department. He led a successful fight against organized crime. In 1989, Giuliani ran for mayor of New York City. He lost to David Dinkins. He came back to run for mayor in 1993, and this time he won. He worked to reduce the crime in New York City and to improve its economy. He wanted to make New York City a better place for people to live. He served as mayor for two terms. Many New Yorkers were very happy with his efforts.

Others weren't as happy. Some people felt that he didn't do enough to help the minorities and the poor people. They also felt that he was unkind and harsh. Giuliani still had a lot to give, so he decided to run for the U.S. Senate. Not long after this decision, he was diagnosed with cancer. He decided to continue serving as mayor.

When terrorist attacks on New York City took place on September 11, 2001, Giuliani was a helpful and dedicated mayor. Many people felt his support and encouragement as they worked to put their lives back together. For his efforts, Giuliani was made an Honorary Knight by Queen Elizabeth II. Many people felt that Giuliani's leadership helped the country find peace and courage in the turmoil of that time.

## STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the meaning of the word *turmoil* as it was used in the passage?
  - mayhem
  - excitement
  - annoyance
  - organization
2. After reading the article, what assumptions can be made about the role that Giuliani played during the time following the attacks on New York?
  - He was a rescuer who managed to save hundreds of people.
  - He played the role of scapegoat for what happened.
  - He was helpful, supportive, and encouraging.
  - He was tough on crime and anxious to punish the offenders.
3. Many people did not agree with how Giuliani worked as mayor of New York City, but what fact from the passage indicates that many people must have liked him?
  - He was a lawyer at the Justice Department.
  - He was made an Honorary Knight by the Queen of England.
  - He was elected to serve at the United Nations.
  - He was elected to serve two terms as mayor.