

Who were they?

ACTIVITY

Groupwork: reading, speaking

AIM

To answer questions in a quiz about famous people from history and fiction.

GRAMMAR AND FUNCTIONS

Past simple questions and short answers

VOCABULARY

General

PREPARATION

Make one copy of the worksheet for each group of three to five students.

TIME

40 minutes

PROCEDURE

- 1 Divide the class into teams of three to five students. Ask each team to think of a famous person from the past, without telling the rest of the class who it is.

They write a clue to this person's identity and a representative of each team reads it out. The other teams guess who the person was.

- 2 Explain to the class that they are going to answer questions in a quiz about famous people from history and fiction.
- 3 Give one copy of the worksheet to each team and point out the example at the top.
- 4 Each team appoints one person to read out the questions to the rest of the team and to write in the answers.
- 5 Tell the students that they have got 20 minutes to read the questions and write in the answers they know.
- 6 After 20 minutes, or when the first team has finished the quiz, check the answers with the whole class. Teams get two points for each correct name and one point for knowing whether the person really existed or not. The team with the most points is the winner.

FOLLOW-UP

Ask the students to stay in their groups and write similar questions about famous people from their own countries. Ask them to give the questions to another group, who answer and score points as before.

ANSWERS

- 1 Count Dracula No, he didn't exist. He was the vampire in a novel written in 1897 by Bram Stoker.
- 2 Madame Tussaud Yes, she did exist. She was born in France and lived during the time of the revolution. She made wax models of heads which fell from the guillotine as people were executed.
- 3 Tarzan (or Lord Greystoke) No, he didn't exist. He was a character from the novels by the American writer Edgar Rice Burroughs.
- 4 Joan of Arc Yes, she did exist. She was born in 1412 and helped the French soldiers to beat the English. Later, the English captured her and burnt her as a witch.
- 5 Hannibal Yes, he did exist. Hannibal was a great African general who fought the Romans in 218 BC.
- 6 Florence Nightingale Yes, she did exist. She looked after wounded soldiers in Russia in 1854 and started a nursing school when she returned to England.
- 7 The Pied Piper No, he didn't exist. He is just a legend, but the story of the Pied Piper may be based on a children's crusade which took place in 1212.
- 8 Mona Lisa (La Gioconda) Yes, she did exist. She was married to Francesco di Bartolommeo del Gioconda, a rich businessman from Florence.
- 9 Cleopatra Yes, she did exist. She lived from 50 to 30 BC and had love affairs with Julius Caesar and another Roman general, Mark Antony.
- 10 Juliet No, she didn't exist. Romeo and Juliet were characters in one of Shakespeare's most famous plays.
- 11 Robin Hood No, he didn't exist. The legend of Robin Hood started 800 years ago.
- 12 Genghis Khan Yes, he did exist. At the age of thirteen he became king of the Mongols.
- 13 Sherlock Holmes No, he didn't exist. A Scottish writer, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, invented him.
- 14 Walt Disney Yes, he did exist. In 1937 he showed his first long cartoon film, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs – he needed over 100,000 separate drawings to make it.
- 15 Al Capone Yes, he did exist. He was born in New York in 1899 and arrested in 1931.
- 16 Marie Curie Yes, she did exist. She married a French professor of physics and they won the 1903 Nobel prize for physics.
- 17 Guy Fawkes Yes, he did exist. On 5th November 1605, a group of men filled the cellars of the Houses of Parliament with explosive – but Guy Fawkes was arrested before he could set light to it.
- 18 Frankenstein No, he didn't exist. It's only a story! Mary Shelley wrote it in 1818.