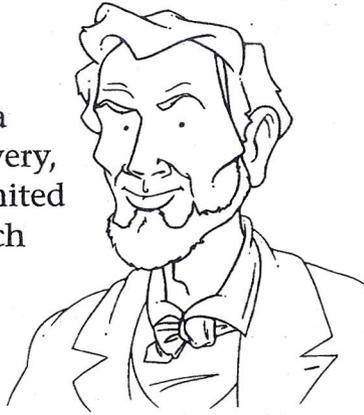


Brief Biographies

Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky in 1809. He spent less than a year in formal school. He opposed slavery, and he was elected president of the United States in 1860. He gave a famous speech called the Gettysburg Address. He was assassinated in 1865. Fun fact—as a boy he often carried an ax.



Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was a famous poet born in Maine in 1807. He loved the ocean and often wrote about it. Longfellow learned French, Spanish, and Italian. He translated an important epic poem called *The Divine Comedy*. He wrote a poem called "The Children's Hour." Fun fact—he published his first poem at age thirteen.

Davy Crockett

Davy Crockett was born in Tennessee in 1786. He also spent less than a year in formal school. He was called "King of the Wild Frontier." He was elected to Congress. He said, "Be always sure you're right—then go ahead!" Davy Crockett died fighting at the Alamo. Fun fact—he was famous for hunting bears.

Clara Barton

Clara Barton was a famous nurse born in Massachusetts in 1821. Soldiers in the Civil War called her "The Angel of the Battlefield." She started the American Red Cross in 1881. She also wrote several books. Fun fact—she was the first female clerk to work in the U.S. Patent Office.

1. After reading these biographies, you can tell the word *brief* means _____.
 - A. fun
 - B. short
 - C. male
2. What is similar about Abraham Lincoln and Davy Crockett?
 - A. They both opposed slavery.
 - B. Both of them gave famous speeches.
 - C. They both spent less than a year in formal school.
3. Number these famous people in the order they were born.
___ Lincoln
___ Barton
___ Longfellow
___ Crockett
4. How are Longfellow and Clara Barton alike?
 - A. Both of them wrote about angels.
 - B. Both of them were writers.
 - C. They were about the same age.

October 26, 2002

Today a new boy named Nkrumah joined our class. He's from Ghana, a country on the west coast of Africa. I was amazed that he spoke English, until he said English was Ghana's official language. He taught our math class how to play the world's oldest game—an African counting game called *mankala* that is over 3,000 years old! Nkrumah said boys and girls play separately. The boys cheered, but Mrs. Tromba said our class had to play together.

Nkrumah showed us the *mankala* game board he had carved himself from hardwood. People in Africa carry their boards everywhere with them. Nkrumah's board had hinges so it could fold. When he opened his board, it had twelve cups with a larger cup called a *kalaha* at each end.

Nkrumah taught us how to make our own board from an egg carton with its lid cut off and a paper cup stapled to each end. Nkrumah's playing pieces were 48 cowrie shells—brightly colored snail shells he had gathered from the Gulf of Guinea. We used beans for ours.

Two people play on each board, so we divided into pairs. Each player takes twenty-four beans. The egg carton sits between you, with six cups facing each player. You put four beans into each of the six cups. Your *kalaha* is on the right.

If you're first, you start by scooping all four pieces from any cup on your side. Then, moving to the right, you drop one piece into each cup after the empty one. If you come to your *kalaha*, drop a piece in it. If you still have pieces left, put them in the other player's cups. But don't put one in the other player's *kalaha*. If your last piece lands in your *kalaha*, you get to go again. If it lands in your friend's cup, and the cup has two or more pieces, you capture those pieces and put them in your *kalaha*. If the cup right before has two or three, you also capture those. Then it's your friend's turn.

The game is over when one side's cups are empty. The winner is the one with the most pieces. We had so much fun, no one wanted math to end.

Reading Comprehension

1. Which of these is one thing a *mankala* board and an egg carton have in common?
 - A. Both are made of wood.
 - B. Both have twelve cups.
 - C. Both have hinges.
2. Number these steps in the order they are done.
 - ___ It's your friend's turn.
 - ___ If your last piece lands in your friend's cup, and it has two or more pieces in it, you capture them.
 - ___ You scoop all four pieces from one cup.
 - ___ Going to the right, you drop one piece into each cup.
3. What did Nkrumah use for playing pieces?
 - A. cowrie shells
 - B. beans
 - C. paper cups
 - D. eggs
4. A good title for this journal entry might be _____.
 - A. "The Boy from Ghana"
 - B. "Math Class Is Fun"
 - C. "The World's Oldest Game"
 - D. "How to Make a *Mankala* Board"

It's a Butterfly! It's a Moth!

No, It's ...

Read the following chart that describes ways that butterflies and moths are alike and different.

Characteristics	Butterfly	Moth
15,000 different species		X
250,000 different species	X	
Active by day	X	
Active by night		X
Wings often dull in color		X
Wings often brightly colored	X	
Caterpillars when young	X	X
Plant eaters	X	X
Wings have tiny, overlapping scales	X	X
Have thin, nonfurry bodies	X	
Have plump, hairy bodies		X
Live wherever plants do	X	X
Antennae are feathery or fern-like		X
Antennae are thin with clubbed ends	X	
Holds its wings at its side at rest		X
Folds its wings above its body at rest	X	
Caterpillar can cause damage to crops	X	X
Caterpillar spends most of its time eating	X	X

Reading Comprehension

Which of these statements tells one way that butterflies and moths are different?

- A. Only moths have plump, hairy bodies.
- B. Butterflies are plant eaters.
- C. A moth's wings have tiny, overlapping scales.



Which of the following is true?

- A. Both moths and butterflies are caterpillars when young.
- B. Butterflies and moths are alike in more ways than they're different.
- C. Moths are just like butterflies, except they are not as colorful.

What is one way that moths and butterflies are the same?

- A. They both have feathery antennae.
- B. They are both active by night.
- C. They both eat plants.



What are three characteristics that butterflies and moths have in common?

- A. They are plant eaters, have thin antennae with clubbed ends, and spend most of their time eating.
- B. They are caterpillars when young, their wings have overlapping scales, and they live wherever plants do.
- C. There are 250,000 different kinds, they are active by day, and they have thin, nonfurry bodies.

Pelé: The Greatest Footballer

On Friday, December 17, 1999, Pelé was named Top Athlete of the Century. He beat out athletes like Muhammad Ali and Carl Lewis for the top spot. But the legend began long before.

Born Edson Arantes do Nascimento, Pelé began playing football at the age of five. (In the United States we say soccer—the rest of the world says football.) Pelé was part of a football family. His father played professionally until he was injured. This didn't discourage Pelé. His first job was shining shoes, but he always dreamed of playing football.

Pelé's debut was at the age of sixteen. Even though he was young, he played well and scored. At seventeen, he began his climb to fame with his performance in 1958 at his first World Cup. He played for the Brazilian team Santos against Sweden. Even after losing 5-2, a Swedish player remarked, "After the fifth goal I wanted to applaud him." They carried Pelé off the field in tears. Pelé is the only person to win three World Cups as a player. He scored twelve goals in fourteen World Cup matches.

In the late 1960s, Pelé and his team, Santos, went to Nigeria. There was a civil war going on, but a forty-eight-hour armistice was signed so both sides could go and watch Pelé play. He was a man who could change things.

When he retired in 1974, Pelé had made Santos the most famous football team in the world. He had scored a remarkable 1,281 goals in his career—an all-time world record. In international matches he scored an unbelievable one goal per game. He held every record in Brazil. It is easy to imagine him as one of the top athletes of any century.



Reading Comprehension

1. Predict what might have happened if Pelé had let his father's injury discourage him from playing football.
 - A. His father would have been angry with him.
 - B. Pelé would not have been famous.
 - C. He would have had his own shoe store.
2. What will the biographer most likely write about in the next paragraph?
 - A. what happened in the war in Nigeria
 - B. what Pelé does now that he is retired from football
 - C. more about Pelé's father
3. In paragraph four the word *armistice* might mean _____.
 - A. weapons used in war
 - B. a treaty signed to stop fighting
 - C. a four-hour football game
4. The author's main purpose in this biography is _____.
 - A. to get people excited about football
 - B. to entertain us with football highlights
 - C. to inform people about the great football player Pelé

From "The Twins"

In form and feature, face and limb,
I grew so like my brother,
That folks got taking me for him
And each for one another.
It puzzled all our kith and kin,
It reached an awful pitch;
For one of us was born a twin,
Yet not a soul knew which.

One day (to make the matter worse),
Before our names were fixed,
As we were being washed by nurse
We got completely mixed;
And thus, you see, by Fate's decree,
(or rather nurse's whim),
My brother John got christened me
And I got christened him.

This fatal likeness even dogg'd
My footsteps when at school,
And I was always getting flogg'd,
For John turned out a fool.
I put this question hopelessly
To everyone I knew—
What would you do, if you were me,
To prove that you were you?



Reading Comprehension

1. In stanza one the word *kith* most likely means _____.
 - A. folks
 - B. one another
 - C. brother
2. "John got christened me" because _____.
 - A. no one cared what the babies were named
 - B. the babies got switched
 - C. he liked the name John best
3. One twin's name is John. You can tell the other twin is _____.
 - A. also named John
 - B. named by the nurse
 - C. not named in the poem
4. The word *dogg'd* in the last stanza refers to _____.
 - A. being like a dog and following him everywhere
 - B. sweeping the path he walked to school
 - C. a disease
5. Predict what you would most likely do "to prove that you were you."
 - A. wear a name tag
 - B. wear different clothes
 - C. look for a physical difference