

The Historian's Blueprint: Crafting a Life Story

Learning objective: To understand the structural features of a biography and apply them by drafting a chronological life account.

Ellie the elephant is our resident history expert! She has provided a 'Biography Blueprint' below. Your task is to act as a biographer. Choose a person you admire (a historical figure, a family member, or a local hero) and use the categories below to organise their life story. Ensure you use past tense and include time-connectives to show the chronological order of their achievements.

Word bank: chronological · biography · milestone · legacy · achievement · time-connectives · anecdote · influence

1. 1. The Early Years: Describe the subject's birth, family background, and childhood environment. Why were these early years significant to the person they became? (2 marks)

2. 2. The Turning Point: Identify one specific event or challenge that changed the subject's life. Explain why this moment was a 'catalyst' for their future success. (2 marks)

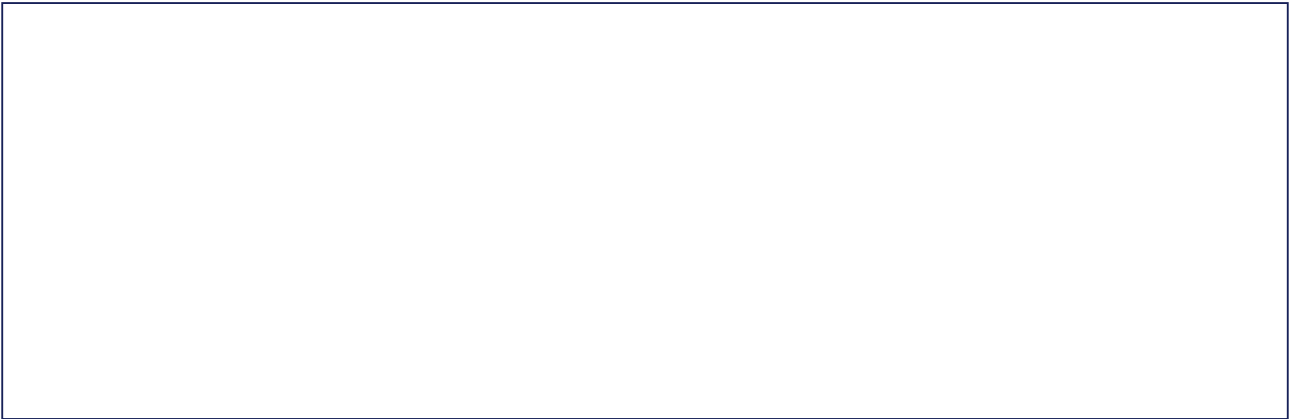
3. 3. Major Contributions: List two key achievements. Compare these achievements—which do you believe had a greater impact on the world and justify your answer? (2 marks)

4. 4. The Personal Touch: Share an 'anecdote' (a short, interesting story) about the subject that reveals something about their personality or character. (2 marks)

5. 5. The Lasting Legacy: Summarise how this person is remembered today. What might happen if this person had never lived? (2 marks)

6. 6. Critical Reflection: Justify why a biographer must remain objective (fair and factual) rather than just writing about the subject's best qualities. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Life Timeline' for your chosen subject. Include four illustrations of key events along the timeline, ensuring each drawing is labelled with a date and a brief caption.



Extension challenge: Write a 'Publisher's Blurb' for your biography. This is a short, persuasive paragraph designed to make a reader want to pick up the book. Use sophisticated vocabulary and a 'hook' to grab the reader's attention.