

Biographical Explorers: The Life and Times Quiz

Learning objective: To understand the features, structure, and purpose of a biography.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of biographies to help Max the monkey solve these literary puzzles!

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.Third-person, 4.False, 5.B, 6.Chronological, 7.D, 8.True, 9.Subject, 10.A.

Extension guidance: Encourage children to consider the difference between a biography (written by someone else) and an autobiography (written by the person themselves).

Word bank: Chronological · Fact · Third-person · Past tense · Subject · Anecdote · Perspective · Achievement

1. 1. Which of these is the most important feature of a biography? A) It uses made-up characters, B) It is written in the future tense, C) It provides factual information about a real person's life*, D) It contains magic spells. (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: A biography is usually written in the third-person (using he, she, or they). (1 mark)

3. 3. What is the technical term for the order in which events in a biography are usually presented? (1 mark)

4. 4. True or False: A biography should include the author's opinion on what the person should have done differently. (1 mark)

5. 5. Why do biographers include 'anecdotes' in their writing? A) To make the book longer, B) To give the reader a deeper insight into the person's character*, C) To confuse the reader, D) Because they forgot the facts. (1 mark)

6. 6. Fill in the blank: Biographies are typically written in the _____ tense because the events have already happened. (1 mark)

7. 7. Which of these would you NOT expect to see in a biography? A) Dates of birth and death, B) Key life achievements, C) A clear structure, D) A list of ingredients for a potion*. (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: The 'subject' of the biography is the person being written about. (1 mark)

9. 9. Why is it important to use reliable sources when researching for a biography? (1 mark)

10. 10. Which word best describes a short, interesting story about a real incident? A) Anecdote*, B) Fiction, C) Myth, D) Legend. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a 'Timeline of Greatness' for a famous historical figure, showing four key events from their life in chronological order.



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenges: 1. Explain why a biographer might choose to interview family members of their subject. 2. Compare and contrast a biography with a newspaper report; how are the purposes different? 3. Justify your answer: If you were writing a biography of a scientist, why would their childhood interests be relevant? 4. What might happen if a biography was written without a chronological structure? 5. How does the author's choice of vocabulary influence how we feel about the subject? 6. If you could choose any person from history to write about, who would it be and what specific 'turning point' in their life would you focus on?