

Biographical Explorers with Ellie the Elephant

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

Join Ellie the Elephant on a journey through time! Read the questions carefully and use your knowledge of non-fiction writing to help Ellie record the life stories of historical figures.

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.Third-person, 4.B, 5.False, 6.Chronological, 7.A, 8.True, 9.Chronological order, 10.B. A biography is a detailed account of a person's life written by another individual, focusing on verifiable events and significant contributions.

Word bank: Chronological · Third-person · Subject · Fact · Anecdote · Perspective · Legacy

1. 1. What is the primary purpose of a biography? A) To entertain with made-up stories B) To persuade the reader to buy a product C) To provide a factual account of someone's life* D) To teach someone how to cook (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: A biography should always be written in the first person (using 'I' or 'me'). (1 mark)

3. 3. Which narrative viewpoint is standard for a professional biography? (One word) (1 mark)

4. 4. What is a 'chronological' structure? A) Organising by topic B) Ordering events by the time they happened* C) Writing only about the end of a life D) Using only pictures (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: An author is allowed to invent fictional dialogue or events to make a biography sound more exciting. (1 mark)

6. 6. What term describes a short, interesting, or amusing story about a real incident or person included in a biography? (One word) (1 mark)

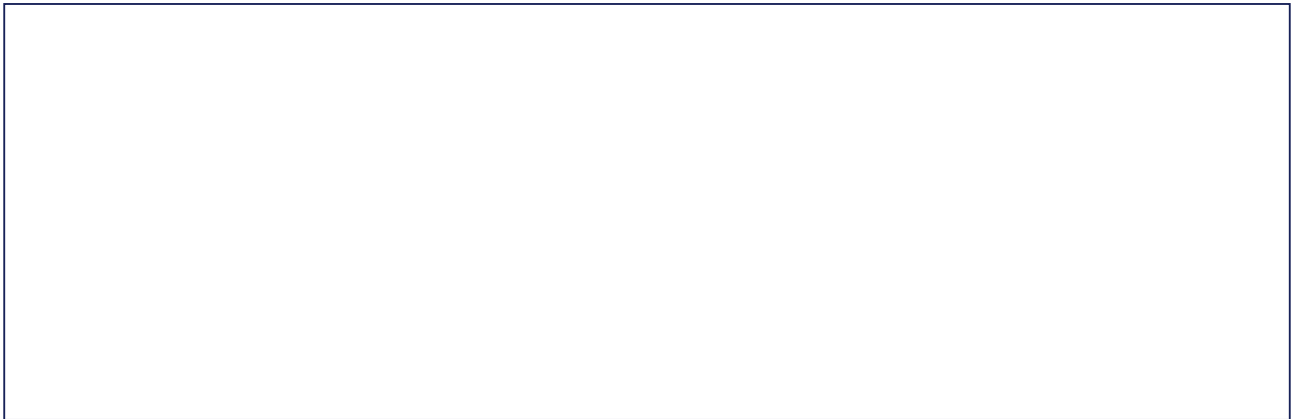
7. 7. Which of these would you NOT expect to find in a biography? A) A list of ingredients for a potion* B) Dates of birth and death C) Significant achievements D) Quotes from witnesses (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: Biographies often include a conclusion that explains the person's 'legacy' or impact on the world. (1 mark)

9. 9. If you were writing a biography, why is it essential to research multiple sources? (One word/short phrase) (1 mark)

10. 10. Which word best describes the person the biography is written about? A) The Narrator B) The Subject* C) The Actor D) The Critic (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a 'Timeline Tree' for a famous historical figure of your choice. The roots represent their early life, the trunk represents their middle years, and the branches represent their greatest achievements and lasting legacy.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why it is important for a biographer to remain objective and unbiased when writing about their subject. 2. Compare and contrast a biography with an autobiography; what are the main differences in perspective? 3. Justify your answer: Does a biography change if it is written 100 years after the subject's death compared to one written during their lifetime? 4. What might happen if a biographer included a 'fact' that had not been properly verified? 5. Why do you think authors choose to include personal anecdotes rather than just a list of dates? 6. If you were commissioned to write a biography of a historical figure, which primary sources would you seek out to ensure your writing is accurate?