

Mapping a Life: The Biography Timeline

Learning objective: To understand the chronological structure of a biography and identify key milestones in a person's life.

Ellie the elephant needs your help to organise the life story of a famous historical inventor. Look at the jumbled events below. Use your knowledge of biographical structure to sequence them chronologically from earliest to latest. Write the numbers 1 to 6 in the boxes provided to show the correct order of the timeline.

Word bank: chronology · milestone · biography · legacy · anecdote · perspective

1. [] The inventor creates a prototype that changes how people communicate forever. (1 mark)

2. [] A childhood interest in tinkering with clockwork parts is described. (1 mark)

3. [] The inventor is born in a small village in the north of England. (1 mark)

4. [] Years later, the invention is recognised globally, cementing the inventor's legacy. (1 mark)

5. [] The inventor receives an award for their contribution to science at the age of forty. (1 mark)

6. [] During university, the inventor meets a mentor who inspires their greatest idea. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a 'Life Map' for Ellie the elephant. Include three symbols that represent important events in her life, such as a book to show she loves stories, a magnifying glass for her history research, and a star to show she loves learning.



Extension challenge: Choose a historical figure you admire. Write a short paragraph (50–70 words) explaining why a chronological structure is the most effective way to present their life story in a biography.