

Uncovering Life Stories: A Biography of an Explorer

Learning objective: To identify the key features of a biography and understand how to use chronological order and formal language.

Read the biography of Captain Elara Vance below. Use the information to answer the questions, paying attention to how the writer uses facts and time-connectors.

Captain Elara Vance was a pioneering navigator born in 1912 in a quiet coastal village. From a young age, Elara was fascinated by the patterns of the stars, often spending her nights with her telescope. After studying maritime science at university, she made history in 1945 by becoming the first person to map the uncharted currents of the Silver Sea. Her journey lasted six months and required immense bravery. Throughout her life, Elara was known for her meticulous journals, which were later published to help future explorers. She retired in 1970, leaving behind a legacy that inspired generations of scientists to look at the ocean with curiosity and respect.

Word bank: Chronological · Achievement · Perspective · Biographical · Legacy · Milestone

1. Identify two time-connectors or phrases used in the text to show the passage of time. (2 marks)

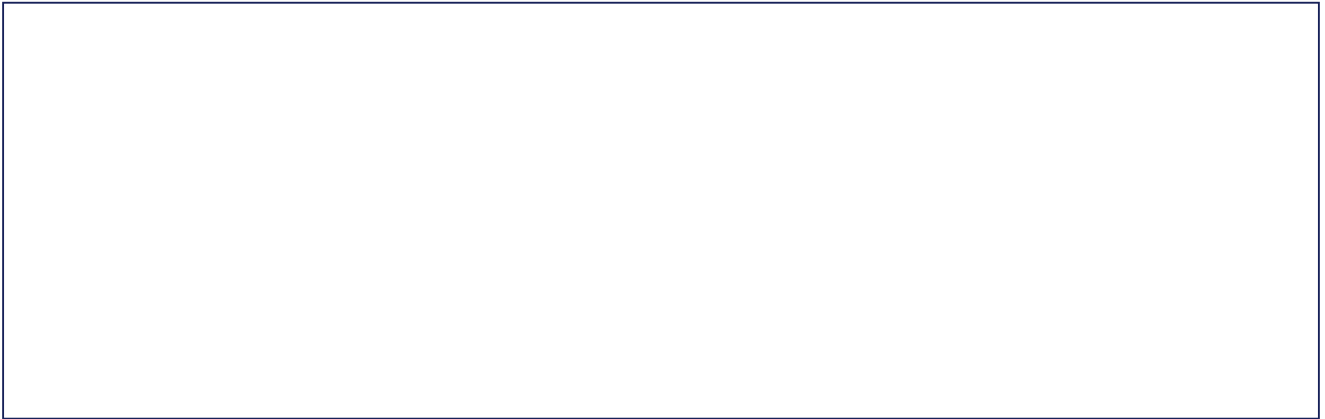
2. Why is this text considered a biography rather than a diary entry? (2 marks)

3. What significant achievement is Elara Vance most famous for, and in what year did it occur? (2 marks)

4. In your own words, explain why Elara's journals were important to future explorers. (2 marks)

5. Find and copy an adjective from the text that describes Elara's character. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene of Captain Elara Vance looking through her telescope at the stars, or sketching a map of the Silver Sea in her journal.



Extension challenge: Research a historical figure you admire. Write a short paragraph (4-6 sentences) about their greatest achievement, ensuring you use at least three chronological time-connectors (e.g., 'Initially', 'Following this', 'Eventually').