

BIOGRAPHY LEARNING CENTER ACTIVITIES

A **BIOGRAPHY** is a factual story about a real person in the past or present

CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD BIOGRAPHY:

1. Both the text and illustrations seem to have been researched. The person and setting are shown in an authentic and accurate manner.
2. The book provides a clear understanding of the person's importance and contribution(s) to humankind.
3. The portrayal of the subject is honest, including both shortcomings and virtues.
4. Rich and vivid details provide information about important and interesting aspects of the person's life.
5. The book provides a historical perspective.

6.

Odd One Out

NOTE: For this activity, gifted or advanced students can decide which names to put on each card and make the cards. The rest of the class can then solve them.

Directions for Preparation

1. Cut out the boxes.
2. Glue on the unlined side of a colored 4 x 6 index cards.
3. At the top of each card, write:

Which one doesn't belong?
Why?

4. Laminate.
5. Punch a hole to the left of each person's name.
6. On the back of the card, put an **X** next to the correct hole.
7. Put a colored circle sticker on the bottom right of each card; number the stickers (1-5)

Directions for Students:

Think about which famous person doesn't belong with the others and why. Put your answers down on the Biography Center Answer Sheet, and then put your pencil through the hole in the card next to your choice. Turn the card over and see if there's an X there. If there is then you're correct!

Cards:

Matthew Henson

Lou Gehrig

Richard Peary

Daniel Boone

Langston Hughes

Mark Twain

Ludwig Van Beethoven

Laura Ingalls Wilder

Leonardo da Vinci

Neil Armstrong

Sally Ride

Amelia Earhart

Mother Teresa

Florence Nightingale

Clara Barton

Susan B. Anthony

Thomas Jefferson

Abraham Lincoln

Benjamin Franklin

George Washington

ODD ONE OUT ANSWER SHEET

1. Who? _____

Why? _____

2. Who? _____

Why? _____

3. Who? _____

Why? _____

4. Who? _____

Why? _____

5. Who? _____

Why? _____

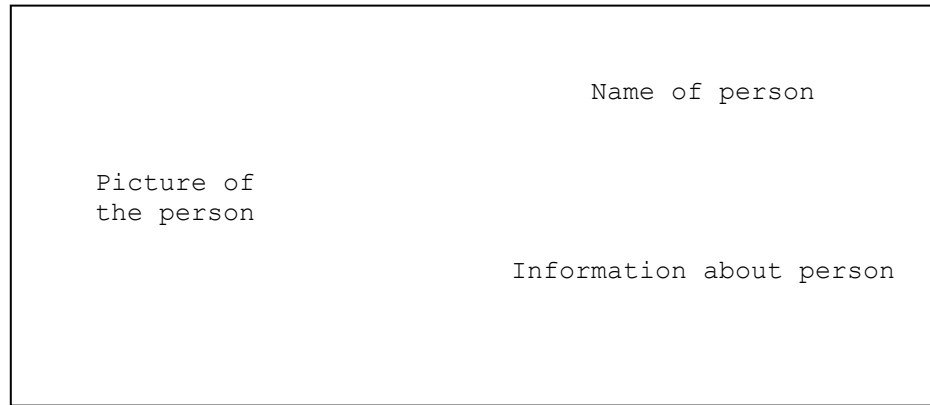
Odd One Out Answers

1. Lou Gehrig
The others were all explorers. (Lou Gehrig played baseball.)
2. Ludwig von Beethoven
The others all wrote books. (Beethoven wrote music.)
3. Leonardo da Vinci
The others all were aviators (flew airplanes). (da Vinci drew plans for airplanes, but was never able to get one off the ground.)
4. Susan B. Anthony
The others all worked to cure sick and dying people. (Anthony worked for voting rights for women.)
5. Benjamin Franklin
The others were all U.S. Presidents. (Franklin was an important founder of the U.S., but was never president.)

3-PIECE PUZZLES

Directions:

1. Use colored 5 x 8 index cards.
2. Arrange information on each card according to example below:



3. *Laminate each card.*
4. Using both straight and curving lines, cut the card into 3 pieces to make a puzzle.
5. Put all the pieces in a 6 x 9 manila envelope.

Directions on Envelope

Put the puzzle pieces together so that each set contains a picture of a famous person, that person's name, and an important fact about that person.

Sample Information for 3-Piece Puzzles

Eleanor Roosevelt

People called me the "First Lady of the World" because I helped my husband become a president of the United States even though he had polio. I also set up a school for poor children, ran a factory for the jobless, and fought for equal rights.

Sequoya

I was a Cherokee Indian who developed the first written language for Native Americans. Instead of drawing signs for words, I developed a sign for each sound.

Mark Twain

I am a famous American writer who wrote Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn. My real name was Samuel Clemens.

Mother Teresa

I was born in Yugoslavia, but later became a nun in Calcutta, India. I started the Missionaries of Charity to take care of the poor, ill, homeless, and starving. I won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

I composed my first concerto when I was only four years old and my first symphony at eight. In my lifetime, I composed over 600 musical works.

Benjamin Banneker

I prepared the layout for the streets, parks, and major buildings in Washington, D.C. My wooden clock was the first clock built in the New World. I published an annual Farmer's Almanac.

Thomas Jefferson

I was the author of the Declaration of Independence.

Walt Disney

I was a great cartoonist, most noted for creating Mickey Mouse.

Ludwig van Beethoven

Even though I became deaf, I still continued to compose symphonies, concertos, and other musical works.

Leonardo da Vinci

I am famous for both my inventions and my artistic works. I painted the "Mona Lisa" and "The Last Supper."

Michaelangelo

I was a famous sculptor and painter in the 1500s. I painted The Last Judgment inside the dome of the Sistine Chapel.