AlloSchool

English : Common Core Classes

Unit 7 (Arts) - Reading

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Summary

I- Biographies

1-1/ Reading 1

1-2/ Reading 2

II- More Artists

2-1/ Reading 1

2-2/ Reading 2

III- Focus on Music

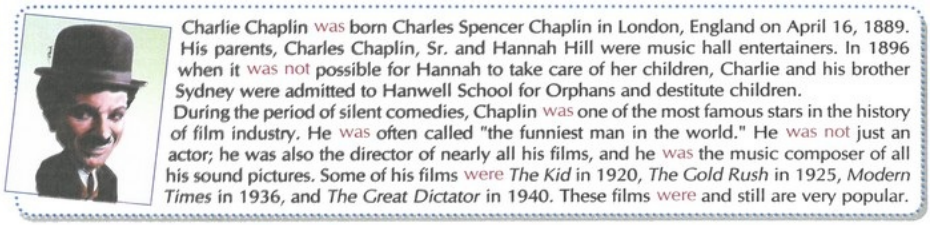
3-1/ Reading 1

3-2/ Reading 2

I- Biographies

1-1/ Reading 1

Text



Charlie Chaplin was born Charles Spencer Chaplin in London, England on April 16, 1889. His parents, Charles Chaplin, Sr. and Hannah Hill were music hall entertainers. In 1896 when it was not possible for Hannah to take care of her children, Charlie and his brother Sydney were admitted to Hanwell School for Orphans and destitute children.
During the period of silent comedies, Chaplin was one of the most famous stars in the history of film industry. He was often called "the funniest man in the world." He was not just an actor; he was also the director of nearly all his films, and he was the music composer of all his sound pictures. Some of his films were *The Kid* in 1920, *The Gold Rush* in 1925, *Modern Times* in 1936, and *The Great Dictator* in 1940. These films were and still are very popular.

Comprehension

- Write "True" or "False", and justify your answers :

1. Charlie Chaplin was American : _____

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2. His parents were artists : _____

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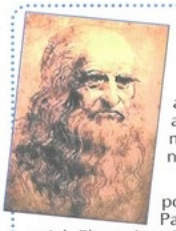
3. Spencer Chaplin was his father's name : _____

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4. He was the director of all his films : _____

1-2/ Reading 2

Text



Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519), was one of the greatest painters in history. He was probably born outside the village of Vinci, near Florence in central Italy. The name da Vinci simply means from Vinci where his parents Ser Piero and Caterina were from.

What most impresses people today is the wide variety of Leonardo's talents and achievements. He was a painter, but he was involved in many scientific activities such as anatomy, astronomy, botany, geology, geometry, and optics. He was also the designer of many machines and inventions. That's why he is called a universal genius. However, he was not interested in literature or history.

Leonardo was most of all an excellent observer. That's why he was a great painter. His portrait Mona Lisa is one of the most famous pictures in the world. You cannot visit Louvre in Paris without seeing it. The woman was probably the young wife of Francesco del Giocondo, a rich Florentine silk merchant. Mona Lisa is a shortened form of Madonna Lisa (my lady, Lisa). The woman is also often called La Gioconda, which is the feminine form of her husband's last name.

Comprehension

- Answer the following questions :

1. When and where was da Vinci born?

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2. Where were his parents from?

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3. In addition to painting, what other fields was Leonardo da Vinci interested in?

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4. Where was Mona Lisa's husband from?

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5. What does Mona mean?

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6. Why is Mona Lisa called La Gioconda?

II- More Artists

2-1/ Reading 1

Text



Comprehension

1. Who stayed at home last Sunday?

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2. Who prepared dinner?

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3. Who cooked lunch?

2-2/ Reading 2

Text



Pablo Picasso was born in 1881 in Malaga, Spain. He was the most famous painter of the 20th century. In addition to his paintings, he produced sculptures, drawings, and ceramics. Picasso showed his technical skills in drawing and painting at the age of 15. One of his famous paintings is Guernica, a cubist piece showing the horror of the bombing of the Basque village of Guernica during the Spanish civil war. In 1904, Picasso moved to France, where he lived until his death in 1973.



Vincent Van Gogh was born in 1853 near Breda, the Netherlands. He was one of the most famous painters in modern art. At the age of 16, he went to The Hague to work for his uncle, an art dealer. His brother, Theo, stayed in the family art business. In 1886, Van Gogh moved to Paris where he experimented with impressionism and other art styles and painted landscapes and city life. He spent the last 19 months of his life fighting a mental illness. When he realised that his illness was too serious, he committed suicide in 1890.

adapted from Word Book. Encyclopedia 1998

Comprehension

- These statements are false. Correct them :

1. Both Van Gogh and Picasso represent cubism.

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2. Picasso died in Spain.

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3. Van Gogh didn't have any brothers.

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4. Picasso was famous for his paintings only.

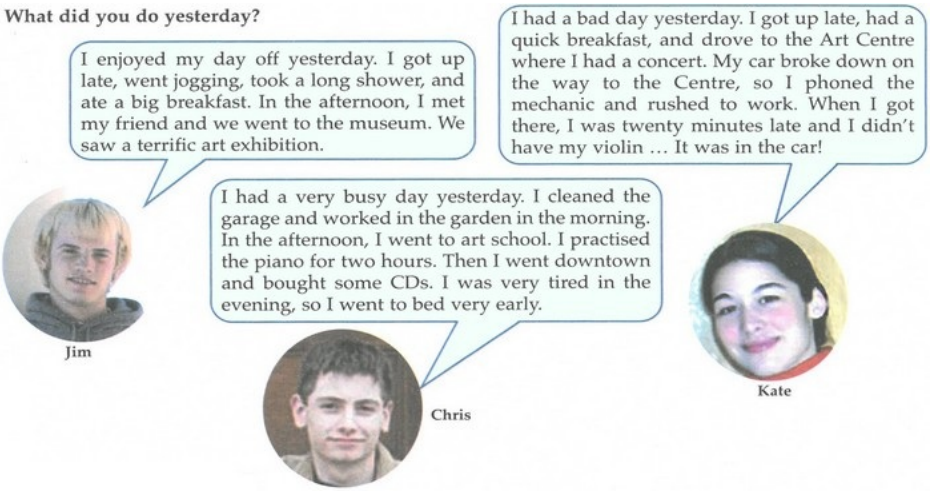
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5. Van Gogh died of a serious illness.

III- Focus on Music

3-1/ Reading 1

Text



Comprehension

- Write "True" or "False" :

Jim liked the art exhibition : _____

Chris listened to music in the evening : _____

Kate is a musician : _____

Kate went to the Art Centre by bus : _____

3-2/ Reading 2

Text

Um Kalthum is the most popular musician of the twentieth century in the Middle East. She was immensely popular for 50 years, and her songs are still popular all over the Arab world.

She was born into a poor family. Her father was the village imam. He earned extra money by singing at marriage ceremonies and at other special occasions. He encouraged her to sing religious songs and she participated in the performances, but they dressed her up as a boy.

Um Kalthum toured the local Delta area, but in1923 the family went to Cairo in the search of a better career. Some years later, she established herself as one of the top performers in Egypt. She worked with famous Egyptian composers, recited classical poetry and acted and sang in a few musical films.

The style of Um Kalthum was based on traditional classical Arab music. She always used large orchestras, but the main force in her songs was her powerful voice. She recorded over 300 songs.

Um Kalthum died in 1975 and her funeral was described as bigger than the one of President Nasser five years earlier.

Comprehension

- Answer the following questions :

1. Are Um Kalthum's songs popular now?

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2. What was her father's job?

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3. Why did they dress up Um Kalthum as a boy?

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4. How old was Um Kalthum when she moved with her family to Cairo?

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5. Why did they go to the capital?

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6. What did she do in addition to singing?

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7. How many songs did she record?

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8. When did President Nasser die?
