

# Childhood of Famous People

# Throngs of People Will Bow Down before My Beauty and Power

I live in a famous ancient realm in North Africa. Everyone believes I'll achieve quite a lot one day. I think so, too, which is why I try to learn as much as I can possibly can. Our family is respected and rich, meaning that I can study whatever strikes my fancy. I'd love to go to school, but that's for boys only. Girls have to study at home.



Being beautiful isn't enough. I'll need to know many things by the time I become a queen.

## The river of Nile

When I'm a good girl and the weather is nice, I'm allowed to go on a boat ride on the Nile. The river is fascinating to me. It's long and huge, floods regularly and fertilizes our fields. It's also a good place to catch fish and travel, especially for large, trade, and cargo ships.

Do you know already which girl this might be?



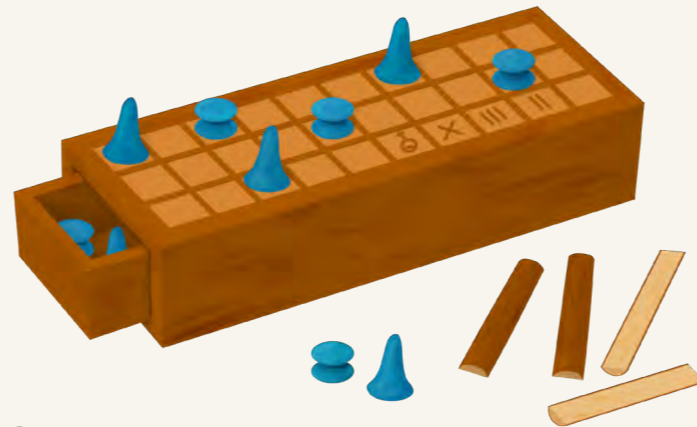
## Mehen

When I'm not studying or helping anyone with anything, I enjoy playing games. Take mehen, for example—that one's really fun! It looks like a snake about to have a hissing fit, but in fact it's just squares arranged into a spiral. Using red and white marbles, you move your pieces, shaped like tiny lions, from one square to the next.



## Wooden cat

I love my beautiful wooden toys. They're all shaped like animals and I'm proud of having them because they can move! I must be careful with them since they're very expensive. I also own a couple of dolls that were carved from wood, and clay figurines.



## Senet

I'm not the only one who likes to play. The adults around me also have their favourite games. For example, they spend a lot of time with senet. To play senet, you need a rectangle board with 33 squares, black and white pieces, and small sticks for throwing. A single game can take up a lot of time. The game's said to resemble the voyage to the afterlife—our culture is convinced that life goes on after death. We've written the Book of the Dead about it and build wonderful structures for the deceased.

Do you know where I'm from?



I'm Nefertiti!



14<sup>th</sup> century BC

Nefertiti was a powerful Egyptian queen who lived in the 14th century BC. Parts of her life are shrouded in mystery. Researchers still can't agree on which family she came from. She may have been a princess but it's more likely that her father was a senior official at the pharaoh's court. Once Nefertiti grew up, she married a pharaoh—Akhenaten. After his death, it was Nefertiti herself who ruled the realm of Egypt.

## What was Nefertiti like?

She's said to have been wise, educated, and extremely beautiful. Her full name was Neferneferuaten Nefertiti, meaning "The Beautiful Woman Has Come". You can judge her appearance for yourself by looking at her bust which is believed to be an accurate representation of her gorgeous face. And she was very proud of her beauty, too, and took a good care of herself. She loved ornaments made from feathers, owned many wigs, and wrapped fine fabrics infused with fragrant oils around her neck.



## What was her realm like?

The Egyptian realm was one of the most important and ancient civilizations in the world, established approximately 3000 years BC in Africa, specifically in the rich fertile valley of the Lower Nile. Its rulers were called pharaohs and considered living gods. Their subjects built wonderful structures for them to make sure they'd lack nothing in the afterlife. These building were called pyramids.



## Domesticated birds

I believe that all kids want to have a pet at home. Our culture prefers songbirds, or at least crickets. The bird at our home was domesticated by me personally. It's been rewarding me by singing beautifully.



## Calligraphy

I have to keep practicing before I'll be able to focus like experienced calligraphers. I admire the careful way they use their brushes. The characters of our writing system look like a beautiful painting. Each stroke matters. It's a genuine art!



Do you know which poet wrote his poems with symbols?

What do you think, who am I?



## People Will Admire My Universal Talent

I was born in the countryside, not far from Florence, but have always wanted to live in a city. You can find so many fascinating people in cities—painters, sculptors, architects. Living close to the wilderness isn't bad either, though. It allows me to observe animals or lots of different plants, writing down everything that catches my eye. My dad would like for me to work as a notary, just like he does, but my interests are completely opposite to his.



## Imagination

When I was roaming the countryside one day, I stumbled upon a dark cave. Inside, there was a huge scary monster. I don't know if it was real or just a figment of my imagination. But who cares, I prefer the real world anyway. It's the real world that's the best teacher—after all, everything I know is rooted in my senses.



## Secret writing

Whenever I leave my house, I have a notebook on me. Friends mock me for always carrying it around. And most of them can't even read what I note in it. I write with my left hand, sometimes from the right to the left to keep the letters from getting smudged. And if I want my writing to be truly illegible to others, I use lemon juice instead of ink. To see the text, you first need to hold it by a candle flame.



Do you know who's said to be the most famous and also the first-known left-hander in history?



## Parachute

I'm obsessed with discovering something which would help me float in the air like a bird. So far, I've invented a device that prevents me from breaking my nose when I jump from a great height. It slows me down as I fall.



## I study the nature

I believe that nature is the best inventor. I love watching all that is living, especially any animals that can fly. I can spend hours watching things float above ground. It would be great if people could fly as well! I've been inventing an aircraft, with little success so far.

Do you know which famous person tried to design the very first aircraft?



## I'm Leonardo da Vinci!



1452 - 1519

Leonardo da Vinci is considered the most ingenious person of all time. He's known mostly for his paintings, but also pursued sculpture, engineering, anatomy, botany, mathematics, physics, and philosophy. His personal journals contain many of his observations and drafts, for example his findings on human anatomy or outlines for technological inventions.

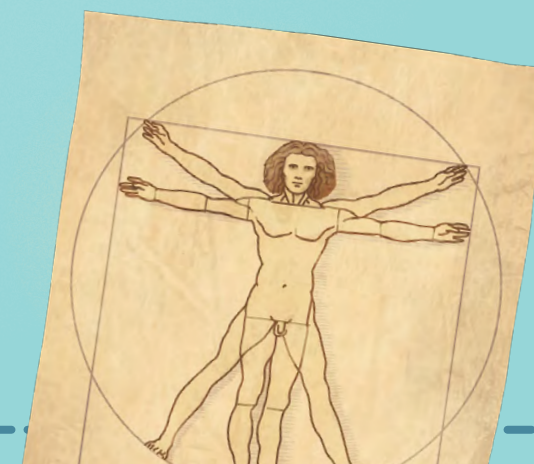
## Mona Lisa

Owing to his varied interests, Leonardo da Vinci failed to finish a lot of his paintings. Those he did finish include a world-renowned portrait of a woman. It's called Mona Lisa or La Gioconda and was painted on poplar wood with oil paints. Today, the painting can be seen at the Louvre Museum in Paris. When it was stolen from Louvre and found two years later, its popularity skyrocketed.



## Renaissance

The Renaissance is what we call the historic period which started in the 14th and ended in the 16th century. Many European cities and royal courts saw arts and education boom, especially those in Italy. The term "renaissance" means rebirth. The then artists were inspired by the ancient Greece and Rome. The period peaked with Leonardo da Vinci and his work.



## Acidic and alkaline

After my mum died, I became absorbed in studying and experimenting even more. Once, I did an experiment to learn which substances were acidic and which were alkaline. All I needed to do was boil some red cabbage and pour different solutions into the stock. Acid, or rather lemon juice turns the liquid red while soap water turns it blue.

Do you know which woman had her husband assist with her experiments?



What do you think, who am I?



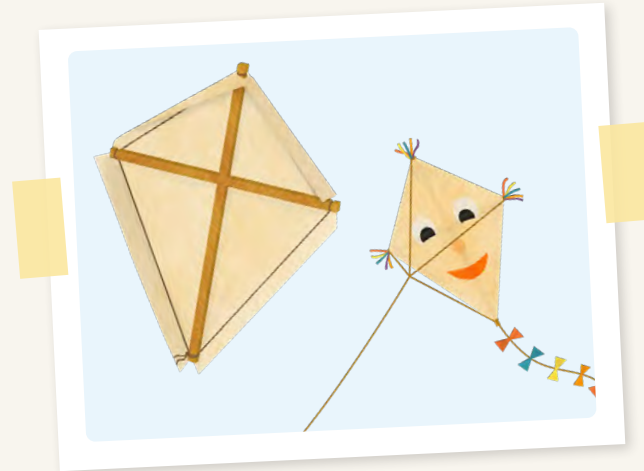
## Let's Take Flight

Adults doubt it's possible to create a machine which would be heavier than air and could take flight, saying only hot-air balloons can fly. But we are sceptical. I and my brother are very interested in this. We must have read every book and encyclopaedia on flying in existence!



### Let's tune this kite up

We're thorough designers. When building a kite, we always try many different versions and observe the influence the shape or material have on the qualities of flight. We've found out that the tail isn't there just to look pretty, but that it helps to stabilize the kite.

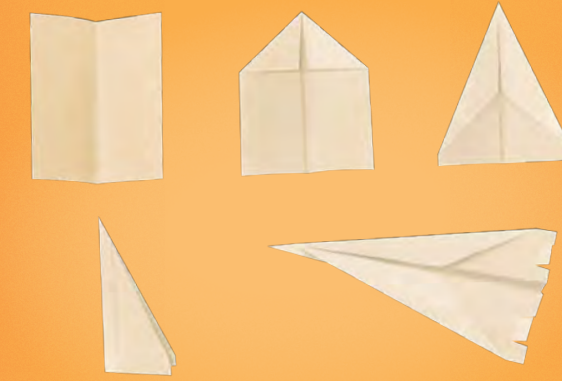


The brothers used this knowledge to build an unpowered aircraft - a glider. Do you now know what Wilbur and Orville's last name was?



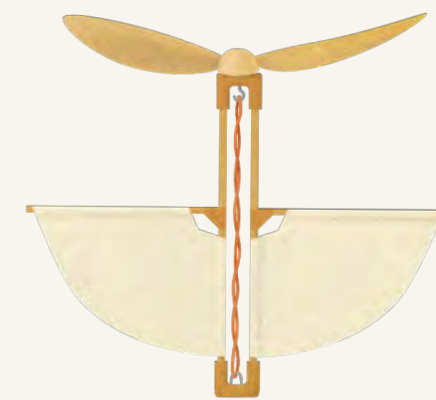
### Sail boat

Wind doesn't just keep a kite in the air, but also a boat on water! My younger brother Orville is very crafty—he can make a great little boat out of a piece of tree bark in no time and decorate it with beautiful ornaments. He's interested in engraving wood and his work is very well-done.



### Paper airplane

Apart from kites, Orville also builds other flying models. His crafts glide in the air beautifully. Those made out of paper are the simplest ones. Making a paper airplane takes no time whatsoever, and then you can hold a race to see which plane flies the furthest.



### Let's fly

Dad brought us a beautiful toy from his business trip—a flying device shaped like a dragonfly, powered by a twisted rubber string. I and my brother sometimes fight each other for it. Both of us would love to create a huge machine which could take flight with people aboard.

Do you know which designers got their wish and made the very first powered airplane in the world?



We're the Wright brothers!

Orville

Wilbur



Orville 1871 - 1948  
Wilbur 1867 - 1912

Orville and Wilbur Wright are considered to be the pioneers of aviation. In USA, they first developed an unpowered glider. Later, they constructed a wooden biplane covered in cloth, and finally took a flight in the very first powered aircraft. The two also founded a company that produced airplanes, called The Wright Company.

### The first flight

In 1903 in North Carolina, USA, Orville Wright flew a powered airplane heavier than air for the very first time in history. The plane stayed in the air for 12 seconds in total and covered 37 meters. The same day, Wilbur flew 300 meters in the exact same aircraft.



### History of aviation

In 1783, the very first hot-air balloon flight took place, orchestrated by the Montgolfier brothers. In 1852, Henri Giffard presented the world with the very first dirigible. More than one hundred years later, the Wright brothers managed to wrench an aircraft from the ground, even though it was heavier than air. In 1909, Louis Blériot flew across the English Channel, and in 1927, Charles Lindbergh made it across the Atlantic Ocean. Over the next 20 years, planes broke the sound speed limit.



## Education

I find it hard to adhere to my school's strict code of conduct. I have a mind of my own and don't like to follow the orders of my wardens. On the other hand, we do learn a lot of useful stuff. For example, I love doing embroidery. You can even use it to make boring old women's dress look fresh again.



## Making a doll

The way girls dress seems impractical to me—long formless dresses that make it hard to run around. It's much simpler for boys. So I dress my doll (of my own creation, mind you) much differently. One day, I'll sew the same clothing for myself.



Do you know which female fashion designer designed a comfortable shirt dress or women's sportswear?

What do you think, who am I?



## I'll Be Entranced by the Movie World

My mum and dad are musicians. They sing in the streets and people reward them with raucous applause. I, too, have been performing in London cabarets since childhood. I love entertaining people. Audiences enjoy my short performances and double up with laughter!



## Spinning plates

Once when I was in a circus, I saw a clown juggling some balls and cones, dancing and singing while doing so. It was a wonderful show! At one point, he borrowed a spectator's umbrella and kept it upright on his own nose! I must learn how to do that.

Do you know which actor was a circus performer as a child, entertaining spectators by juggling and dancing?



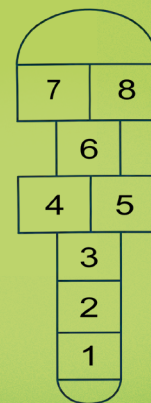
## I'm a comedian

There are different ways to make people laugh. Someone, I simply slip on a banana peel. Other times, I need to make the effort and walk on stilts. Even though walking on wooden poles with footboards may seem like a piece of cake, it couldn't be further from the truth. I've fallen quite a few times already.



## Playing hopscotch

Playing this game, which exercises my muscles, improves my accuracy, and perfects my sense of balance, isn't difficult at all. Simply draw the fields where you'll be hopping on one or two legs, in a numerical order. Whoever steps outside the line, loses. Fun!



## Entertainment

In the theatre, I entertain people with pantomime. It's hard since I mustn't use my voice, only facial expressions and body movements. Sometimes, I also dance. Outside, I more than make up for the silence—while playing hopscotch with my buddies, we loudly support one another. The one who hits the correct field with his pebble and jumps through the court several times flawlessly, wins.

Do you know which famous mime achieved fame in the movie world?



## I'm Charlie Chaplin!

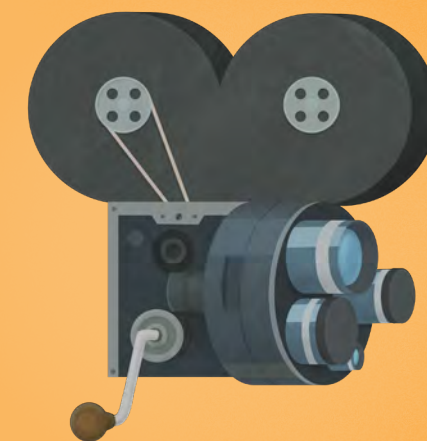


1889 - 1977

Chaplin was one of the most renowned filmmakers in history. He came up with ideas for movies, wrote screenplays, directed them, and cast himself as the lead. His childhood wasn't very happy; his mother suffered from a mental illness and his father died soon after. Chaplin and his brother ended up in an orphanage. When he was very little, he left with an English troupe for the USA. Later in Hollywood, he began making silent slapstick comedies which made him famous.

## Cinema

Charlie Chaplin made his debut on the silver screen in a movie called Making a Living. Over time, his silent shorts became very popular. The main character of Charlie the Tramp underwent a significant development, reflecting contemporary social changes. It's especially apparent in The Kid, City Lights, Modern Times, or The Great Dictator where Chaplin parodied the German Nazi regime. In 1971, Chaplin received an Academy award for his life's work and contribution to the global cinema.



## Charlie the Tramp

In 1912, Chaplin first introduced the character of Charlie the Tramp. Back then, it was the most famous comedic character in existence. He wore a tiny moustache, bowler hat, bamboo walking stick, huge shoes, and baggy trousers. Chaplin played the soft-hearted tramp for more than 20 years, up until the sound film era began.



## Rehabilitation

When I was seven, I contracted polio. Since then, I've been limping on my right leg—it's shorter than the left one, you see. So I must exercise the muscles in my lower extremities. Swimming is wonderful for that. Dad also has me ride a bike, play football, and even box!



## Camera

My dad came to Mexico as a young man. He often tells me about what it was like to leave Germany, especially when we spend time together in his photographic studio. He works as a professional photographer and has taught me a lot of things. He takes many pictures of me. One day, they'll be beautiful mementos of my childhood.



What do you think. who am I?



## I'll Write Songs About My Life

I had a truly adventurous childhood. Dad had no time for me and mum was worried that she wouldn't be able to raise me on her own. I lived with my relatives, but that wasn't anything to write home about either. My grandma from my mother's side neglected me, didn't give me enough to eat, and even told me I was born in the streets!

Do you know which girl was given a nickname that means "sparrow" in English?



I don't have an easy childhood, but I'll certainly step onto the world-famous stages.

## Pétanque

The social game of pétanque originated in France, my home country. I love it because you can play it with anyone—adults, children, even old people who don't want to just sit around in the park. There's nothing to it! Simply throw your boule as close to a little wooden target ball, called jack, as possible.



## Music

The barrel-organ is my favourite instrument. One organ-grinder even let me turn the handle! As soon as I turned it for the first time, the box started playing beautiful music. Organ-grinders have a similar job description as I and my dad—they mostly stay outside, entertain people, and wait for a reward to arrive in the form of spare change.



## Shell game

I was blind between the ages of three and seven. Fortunately, now my eyes are okay again and I can play the shell game with boys. You hide a small ball under one of the shells and then shuffle all three shells. You need to pay close attention to guess correctly where the ball is hidden. It's not rare for me to realize the boys are cheating!

This woman didn't have a happy childhood. She was even blind for a few years. Do you know her name?



## I'm Édith Piaf!



1915 - 1963

Édith Piaf was a French singer, born in the suburbs of Paris. She had a difficult childhood, living by turns with her relatives and father with whom she trouped all over France. Her singing career started when she was singing to people in the streets.

That's where a nightclub owner later discovered her. He gave her the nickname "sparrow", probably because of her small stature, and recommended her to wear a black dress while performing. The dress went on to become her signature garment. Her songs were about love and joy, but also about her hardships—both her little daughter and partner died, and she went through a string of failed relationships.

## Songs

Édith became popular during WWII and after. She toured all over Europe, the USA, and South America. Her biggest hits are Non, je ne regrette rien, Mon Dieu, or Padam...Padam...



## Chanson

Ever since the Middle Ages, the term "chanson" had referred to simple songs with merry, sometimes even satirical lyrics. Its modern form was born at the stages of French vaudevilles. The style of lyrics changed as well—they began resembling elaborate poems. Apart from Édith Piaf, Charles Aznavour, Jacques Brel, or Gilbert Bécaud also were chanson singers.





Discover  
childhood of  
**25** famous  
people

Do you think you can expose some of the famous and well-known personas based on indices from their childhood? If so open this book and try it! There are 25 celebrities waiting for you to uncover them - rulers, inventors, scientists, musicians ... They will all lead you to their childhood, show you how it was back then, what they liked to play with, what were their interests but they will keep their names for themselves. Each of them has a guideline to help you guess who they are. Then you can check under the flap if you succeeded. What's that? Can you hear that? That must be all the new friends greeting you!

