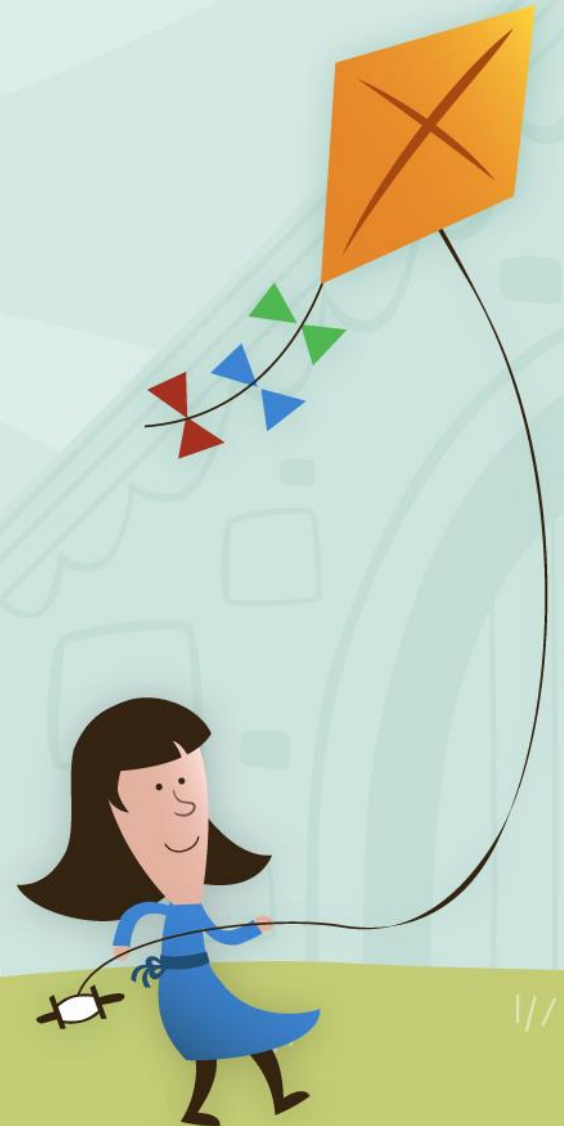


How to write a short biography

5th Grade

Unit 7: Going Back in Time!

by Thomas Boulieris



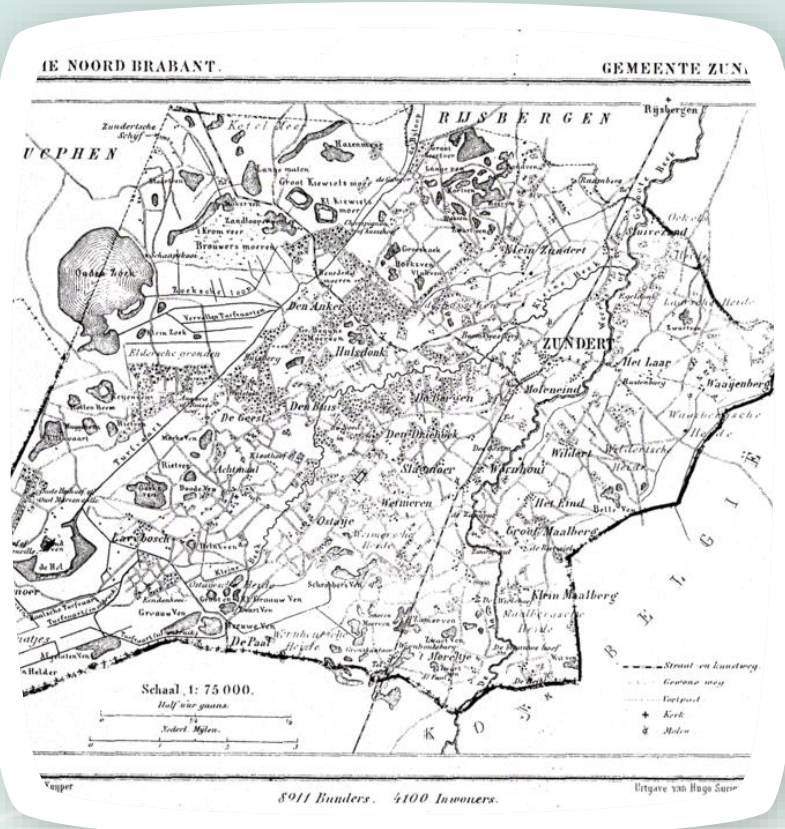
Find a famous person from the past!



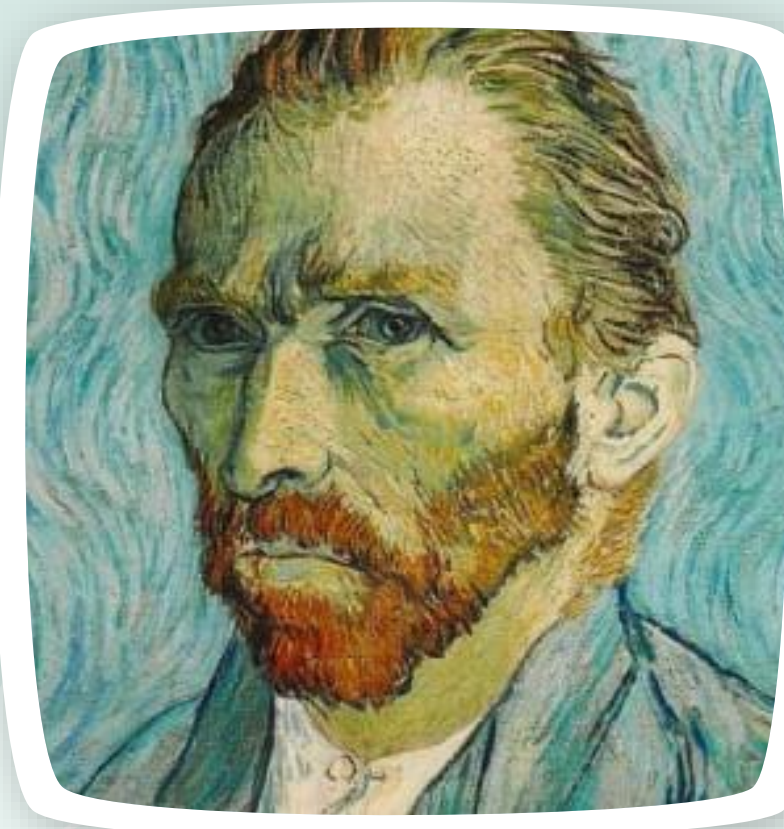
Think of his/her accomplishments
and give a short title:

e.g. "van Gogh: a great painter"





Where was this famous person born? (Zundert, Holland)



When was this famous person born? (March 30, 1853)

- Vincent Van Gogh was born on March 30, 1853, in Groot-Zundert, Holland.



The early years

As a young boy he was serious, quiet, and thoughtful and as a young man, he worked as an art dealer...

In 1880 he moved to Brussels to become an artist. In 1885 he started the "Potato Eaters"! He moved to France.

Vincent van Gogh completed more than 2,100 works but was very poor!

He died on July 27, 1890, at the age of 37. He became famous after his death



Growing up
Becoming famous
When died?



"Starry Night" in 1889



"Sunflowers" in
January 1889



"Self-portrait" 1889

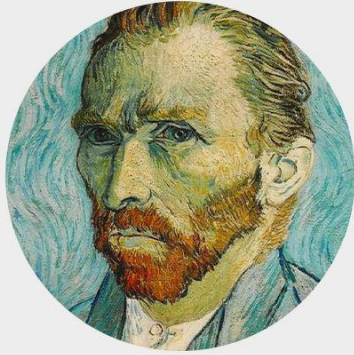
Some famous
works:



We gathered the information needed!

Now let's start writing:





VINCENT VAN GOGH

PAINTER | 1853–1890

Although he was virtually unknown and poor throughout his life, Vincent van Gogh is considered one of the greatest Dutch painters of the post-Impressionist era. His famous works include "Starry Night," "Sunflowers" and "Self-Portrait."

QUICK FACTS



Wanted to be a minister



Cut off his ear



Lived in asylum



More than 2,100 works



Died at 37 from self-inflicted gunshot wound

"Enjoy yourself too much rather than too little, and don't take art or love too seriously."

BIOGRAPHY

Photo: Courtesy Musée d'Orsay via Wikimedia Commons

1st paragraph: "*choose the person*"

- Name, place and date of birth and -if possible- some family information!

2nd paragraph: "*do some research*"

- The early years, school, studies and -if possible- things that affected them!

3rd paragraph: "*reason this person is famous*"

- Why and when they became famous, important accomplishments!

4th paragraph: "*conclusion*"

- Date and place they died and some personal comments of why you like them and why you decided to write about them!

(you can decorate your short biography with photos, drawings, symbols and anything you can think of)

Step by step outline of the biography



An example from our book:

El Greco (Doménikos Theotokópoulos)

El Greco **was born** in Hania, Crete in 1541. At that time Crete was part of the Republic of Venice.

As a young man he **studied** Byzantine icon painting in Hania. He **moved** to Venice in 1567 where he continued to study painting. In 1570 he **went** to Rome. He **lived** and **worked** in Rome until 1577.

In 1577 he **moved** to Spain in Toledo, near Madrid where he **lived** and **worked** until the end of his life. He **died** in 1614 at the age of 73.

El Greco **had** a very individual style. His paintings show both Byzantine and Italian styles. They also show strong Catholic religious elements from Spain.

He is one of the most famous painters of the 16th century. His paintings **influenced** many famous artists after him, for example Picasso and Cézanne.

In honour of El Greco, Nikos Kazantzakis **called** his autobiography "A Tribute to Greco".



Student's book: p.p. 88



Some useful sources:

General (applying to all biographies)

- <https://www.biography.com/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

Specific (applying to Vincent Van Gogh)

- <https://www.vangoghgallery.com/>
- <https://www.vangoghmuseum.nl/en>

