



Mother Teresa



Let's Think

1. Have you ever heard of Mother Teresa?
2. Do you think she is still influential nowadays?

You are Johnny. You are reading a biography of Mother Teresa.

The Life of a Saint

Having devoted her entire life to helping the poor, the sick, the aged, and the helpless, Mother Teresa, whose birth name is Anjezë Gonxha Bojaxhiu, is one of the most respected women in recent history.

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Mother Teresa was born in 1910. At an early age, she decided to devote herself to her religious belief. At the age of 18, she left her home in Eastern Europe and joined a religious group based in Ireland, where she received a few months of training. Later, she began her missionary work in India, where she took her vows as a nun with the name Teresa.

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Mother Teresa taught in India for many years. It was not until she felt God's call in 1948 that she left her religious group and began to serve the poorest of the poor in India, which refers to the hundreds and thousands of the less fortunate ones, including the hungry,

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the homeless, the sick, the disabled and the unwanted, unloved and uncared for, all of whom were considered burdens to society. Her selfless dedication knew no boundaries.



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Shortly, in 1950, Mother Teresa officially started her own humanitarian organisation called the Missionaries of Charity to help the disadvantaged who were neglected or rejected by society. She served them wholeheartedly with compassion. Seen as a role model to everybody and recognised for all the good deeds she had done for the suffering communities, Mother Teresa received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.

Mother Teresa once said that love is ‘to give until it hurts’, and she lived out her words. In the last two decades of her life, despite her failing heart, she refused to step back from her humanitarian work. In 1997, she died of a heart attack at the age of 87. The Missionaries of Charity now has over 5,000 members serving in more than 130 countries, bringing inner peace to those whose lives have been blessed with the mercy of Mother Teresa, which transcends death and time.



(315 words)

Part A

Answer the following questions using information from the biography. Choose the **BEST** answer and blacken **ONE** circle only.

- Mother Teresa is highly respected for her _____.
 - A. courage to leave her birthplace to serve God
 - B. compassionate acts to the disadvantaged communities
 - C. deep religious faith
 - D. pursuit of inner peace
- Mother Teresa _____.
 - A. never left Europe
 - B. helped only the poor
 - C. was not named Teresa until she took her vows as a nun
 - D. was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize only because she founded the Missionaries of Charity
- In line 23, the word ‘wholeheartedly’ **CANNOT** be replaced by ‘_____’.
 - A. unreservedly
 - B. sincerely
 - C. genuinely
 - D. unwillingly
- Mother Teresa led her life of service mainly in _____.
 - A. Eastern Europe
 - B. India
 - C. Ireland
 - D. China

Grammar Corner

We use the **present perfect tense** to talk about an event that has just finished in the recent past and still has an effect at present.

e.g. *The Missionaries of Charity now has over 5,000 members serving in more than 130 countries, bringing inner peace to those whose lives have been blessed with the mercy of Mother Teresa.*
(Lines 32-35)

Part B

Answer the following questions using the information from the biography. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

1. Name five communities that were directly benefited from Mother Teresa's service.

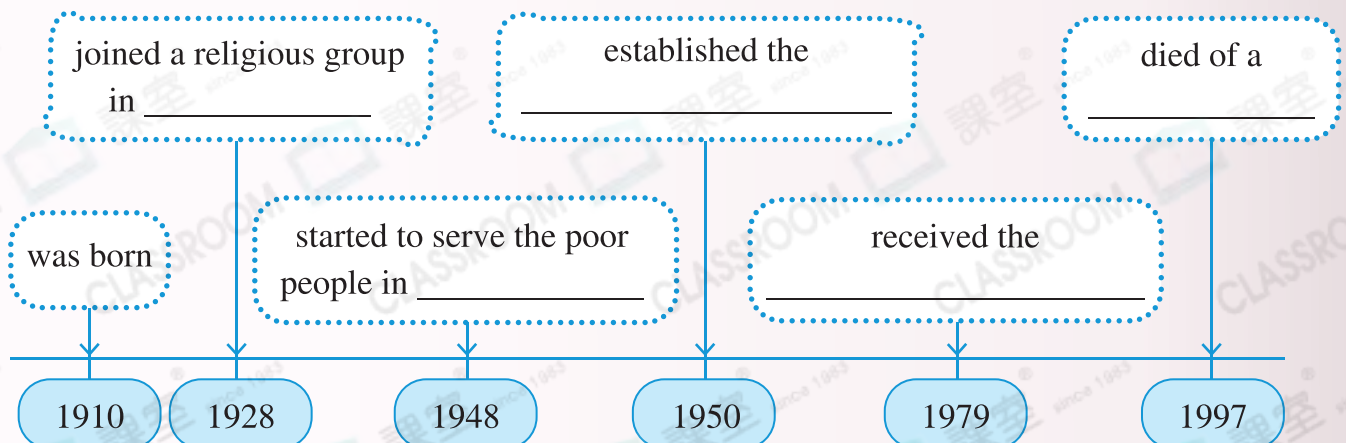
2. Look for a phrase which means 'had no limits'.

3. Based on the biography, explain how Mother Teresa lived out her words 'to give until it hurts'.

4. Look for words in the biography to match the definitions below.

- (a) _____ (para. 1) (v.) given all of something, especially time, effort, or love, to something one believes in or to a person
- (b) _____ (para. 2) (n.) serious promises or decisions
- (c) _____ (para. 3) (n.) things that are difficult or unpleasant to deal with
- (d) _____ (para. 4) (adj.) connected with improving people's lives and reducing suffering
- (e) _____ (para. 5) (v.) goes beyond something, especially a limit

5. Complete the timeline below about the life of Mother Teresa.



Vocabulary Bank

The following are some of the greatest people in the world. Match them with the correct pictures. One of the words is not used.

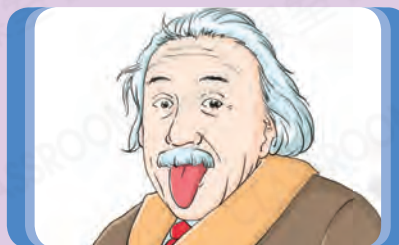
Sun Yat-sen
Martin Luther King
Abraham Lincoln

Nelson Mandela
Mahatma Gandhi
Aung San Suu Kyi

Malala Yousafzai
Albert Einstein
Mo Yan



1.



2.



3.



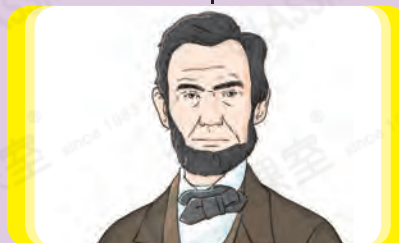
4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



Let's Discuss

1. Which great person do you admire the most? Why?
2. Explain how these great people gave until it hurt like Mother Teresa did.