

Charles Dickens 200 Years

DID YOU KNOW THAT 3

Ex.1. Speaking

In pairs or groups of three answer the following questions.

1. How long do people live these days?
2. Can a woman propose to a man?
3. Where does the Christmas Tree tradition come from?
4. Can you think of any famous people depicted on any banknotes?
5. What charitable organisations have you heard of?
6. Can you think of where any famous people are buried?
7. What % of the earth, do you think, the British Empire covered?
8. Do you prefer to read books or watch their movie adaptations?
9. Do you think it's easy to be the wife of a powerful politician?
10. Do you think it's easy to be the husband of a powerful politician?

Ex.2. Reading and Vocabulary

Read the text and discuss in pairs the words and phrases in bold.

Ex.3. Reading and Discussion

Read the text again and tick any piece of information that you found new or interesting. Compare with your partner.

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Charles John Huffam Dickens was born on the 7th of February 1812 and died on the 9th of June 1870 at the age of 58. He was one of the most famous and prolific novelists of the Victorian period. Many of his books were published serially in magazines, which explains the frequent suspense effect at the end of individual chapters. Charles Dickens has been respected worldwide as a writer for his concern for the poor, unique characters he created and for his sense of humor. In 2012 we are celebrating the 200th anniversary of his birthday.

Did you know that...

- It was Dickens who **to great extent** popularised the idea of Christmas festivities and white Christmas and his Christmas Carol description became a kind of **blueprint** to follow.
- There have been hundreds of TV and film adaptations of Dickens' novels.
- Charles Dickens is **buried** at Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey in London.
- Dickens was invited to give **readings** of his novels in America.
- Dickens was **depicted** on the GBP 10 note **issued** by the Bank of England which was **in circulation** in the UK between 1992 and 2003

Did you know that...

- Queen Victoria **proposed** to Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. She was in love with him and the feeling was **reciprocated**.
- The British Empire extended over about 20% of the earth's surface and almost 25% of the world's population.
- **Life expectancy** at birth in 1837 was below 40 and one child in five died by the age of five.
- Victorian middle and upper classes often **supported** the working class. Many **charities** were set up like Barnardo's. Libraries, wash-houses and swimming baths were **funded**.
- Queen Victoria's husband was German while Queen Elizabeth's husband, Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh was born Prince of Greece and Denmark.
- Prince Albert, **championed** many public causes such as reform of education and a worldwide **abolition** of slavery.
- The tradition of bringing a Christmas tree **indoors** was started by Prince Albert, who **erected** a tree at Windsor Castle, following a German tradition.

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Teachers' Notes

Before asking students to read the text ask them to discuss the questions in Ex.1..
You can use the following technique:

- Students stand in two lines facing each other.
- Teacher writes the questions on board.
- Students answer the first question with the person opposite.
- Then the teachers ask students in one line to move one person to the right.
- Everybody has a new partner now.
- With new partners students discuss the second question.
- They change partners at the teacher's signal, before every question.

Try it, it's fun. And students don't have to sit at their desks all the time.

You can then ask the group what they think all the questions have in common.

Then ask the students to read the text and do exercises 2 and 3.

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