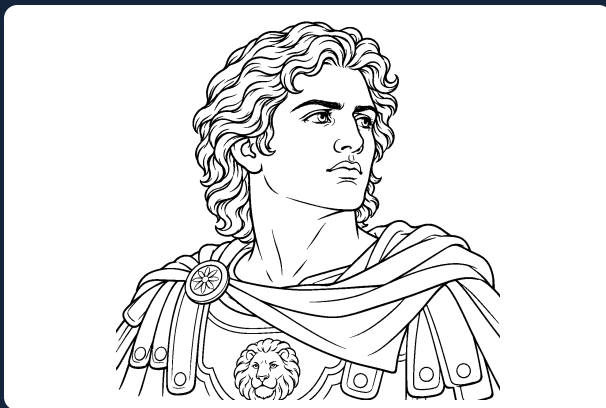
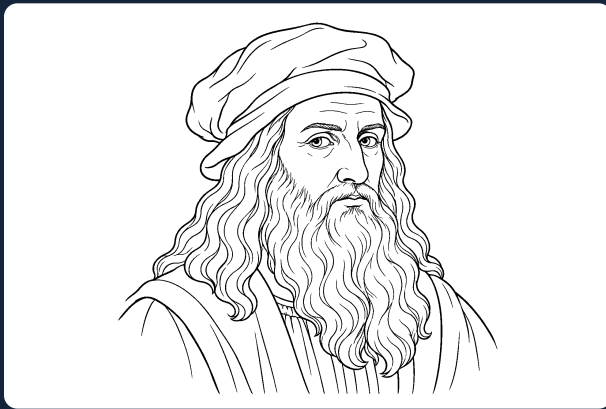


WORLD CULTURES & EDUCATION

40 FACES

THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

A COLORING & LEARNING BOOK



Dr. Wagih Elgohary

40 portraits / 200 facts / Activities & source notes

REVISED 2026 EDITION • AGES 10+ & ADULT LEARNERS

Meet people. Ask better questions.

By Dr. Wagih Elgohary, Ph.D., Ed.D.

Published by World Cultures & Education (WCE)

Revised and expanded edition, October 2026

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What this selection means

These are forty influential people from the original WCE selection. This is not a ranking, an exhaustive world history, or an endorsement of every action or belief. Their lives include collaboration, achievement, conflict and harm. Ask who is missing and whose work made each achievement possible.

About the illustrations

The 37 coloring portraits are artistic interpretations. Three credited archival images support portrait drawing studies. Artistic interpretations and factual biographies serve different purposes. No affiliation or endorsement by the people, their families or their institutions is implied.

A note for educators

Suggested for ages 10 and above with teacher or family guidance. Some context notes address war, racism, discrimination and allegations of abuse. Choose discussions that fit your learners. Source notes begin on page 89.

Your guide to the forty faces

01 Albert Einstein	5	21 Abraham Lincoln	45
02 Marie Curie	7	22 John F. Kennedy	47
03 Nikola Tesla	9	23 Mohamed Salah	49
04 Isaac Newton	11	24 Margaret Thatcher	51
05 Galileo Galilei	13	25 Julius Caesar	53
06 Leonardo da Vinci	15	26 Alexander the Great	55
07 Thomas Edison	17	27 Confucius	57
08 Louis Pasteur	19	28 Rumi	59
09 Charles Darwin	21	29 Maimonides	61
10 Niels Bohr	23	30 Ahmed Zewail	63
11 Mother Teresa	25	31 Walt Disney	65
12 Florence Nightingale	27	32 Steve Jobs	67
13 Jane Goodall	29	33 William Shakespeare	69
14 Albert Schweitzer	31	34 Ludwig van Beethoven	71
15 Martin Luther King Jr.	33	35 Frida Kahlo	73
16 Nelson Mandela	35	36 Amelia Earhart	75
17 Rosa Parks	37	37 Muhammad Ali	77
18 Harriet Tubman	39	38 Bruce Lee	79
19 Malala Yousafzai	41	39 Michael Jackson	81
20 Mahatma Gandhi	43	40 Helen Keller	83

Activities 85-88 • Source notes 89-95 • About WCE 96

Color. Read. Reflect. Create.

01 LOOK CLOSELY

Before reading, notice the portrait. Which details suggest an era, profession or personal style? An illustration can invite curiosity, but it cannot prove a fact.

02 READ FIVE FACTS

Read the biography on the facing page. Underline one familiar idea and circle one new word. Regions describe connections across a life; they do not always match modern borders.

03 ADD COLOR AND MEANING

Choose your own palette. You may use realistic colors or a symbolic palette. Add a background pattern or small symbols that connect to the person's work.

04 THINK BEYOND THE PORTRAIT

Read the context note and discuss the question. Separate a documented event, an interpretation and a personal opinion. Being famous does not make every choice correct.

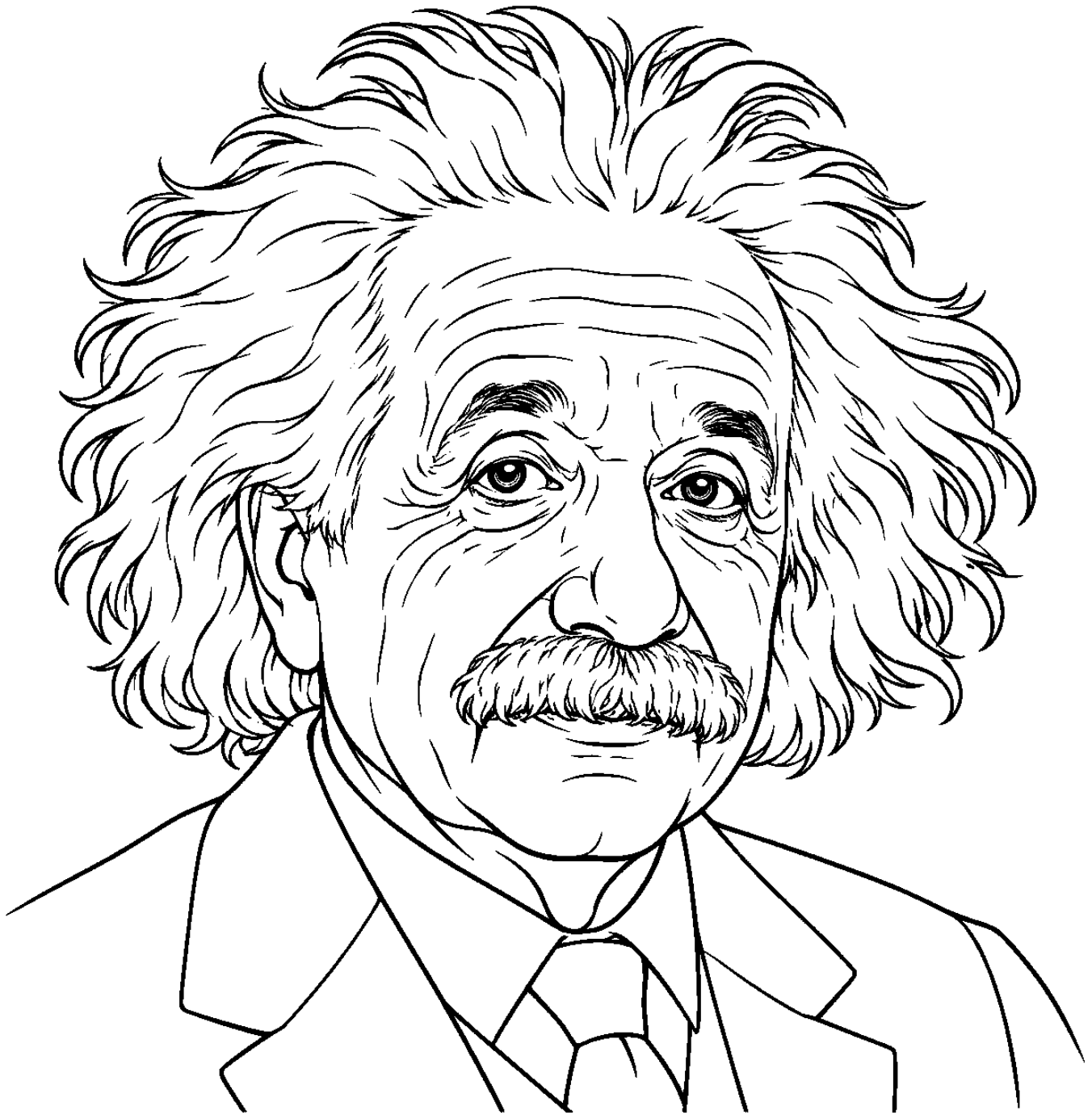
05 CHECK AND EXTEND

Use the numbered sources at the end. Find one additional reliable source. Then complete the activities on pages 85-88 or propose a person for a future edition.

Print tip: Use US Letter paper at actual size. For markers, print portrait pages separately or place a protective sheet beneath your work. The complete book also works for two-page digital reading.

Albert Einstein

1879-1955 | Germany / Switzerland / United States



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Albert Einstein

Physics and a changing universe

- 1 Einstein was born in Ulm, in what is now Germany.
 - 2 In 1905 he published work on special relativity, light quanta and Brownian motion.
 - 3 His equation $E = mc^2$ connects mass and energy.
 - 4 He received the 1921 Nobel Prize in Physics for explaining the photoelectric effect.
 - 5 He settled in the United States after the Nazis came to power in 1933.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

Science grows through evidence, debate and teamwork. Einstein did not invent the atomic bomb; his work belongs to a much larger history of physics.

THINK ABOUT IT

How can a question about an ordinary experience lead to a scientific discovery?

Marie Curie

1867-1934 | Poland / France



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Marie Curie

Radioactivity and scientific persistence

- 1 She was born Maria Sklodowska in Warsaw.
 - 2 She moved to Paris to study and worked with Pierre Curie.
 - 3 The Curies announced the discovery of polonium and radium in 1898.
 - 4 She shared the 1903 Physics Nobel Prize and won the 1911 Chemistry Nobel Prize.
 - 5 During World War I she helped organize mobile X-ray services.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

Her research opened new paths in science and medicine. Radiation also poses serious risks; modern laboratories use protections unavailable in her early work.

THINK ABOUT IT

What barriers can prevent talented people from studying, and how can schools remove them?

Sources: profile 02, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Nikola Tesla

1856-1943 | Born in present-day Croatia / United States



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Nikola Tesla

Electrical invention

- 1 Tesla was born in Smiljan to a Serbian family.
 - 2 He moved to the United States in 1884.
 - 3 He developed an induction motor and important alternating-current power patents.
 - 4 He demonstrated high-frequency electrical experiments and developed the Tesla coil.
 - 5 The SI unit of magnetic flux density, the tesla, bears his name.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

Modern power systems came from many inventors, engineers and businesses. Tesla made major contributions, but he did not invent electricity.

THINK ABOUT IT

Why does an invention need testing, financing and collaboration as well as a good idea?

Isaac Newton

1642/43-1727 | England



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Isaac Newton

Motion, light and mathematics

- 1 Newton studied and later taught at Cambridge University.
 - 2 His Principia was published in 1687.
 - 3 He described three laws of motion and universal gravitation.
 - 4 He investigated how a prism separates white light into colors.
 - 5 He and Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz developed calculus independently.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

Newton's birth is recorded as 25 December 1642 in the calendar then used in England, equivalent to 4 January 1643 in today's Gregorian calendar.

THINK ABOUT IT

How does measuring a result improve an explanation?

Sources: profile 04, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Galileo Galilei

1564-1642 | Italian states



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Galileo Galilei

Observation and evidence

- 1 Galileo was born in Pisa.
- 2 He improved telescopes and used them for astronomical observations.
- 3 In 1610 he reported four moons orbiting Jupiter.
- 4 He observed the phases of Venus and an uneven lunar surface.
- 5 His support for a Sun-centered model brought conflict with Church authorities; he was tried in 1633.

CONTEXT MATTERS

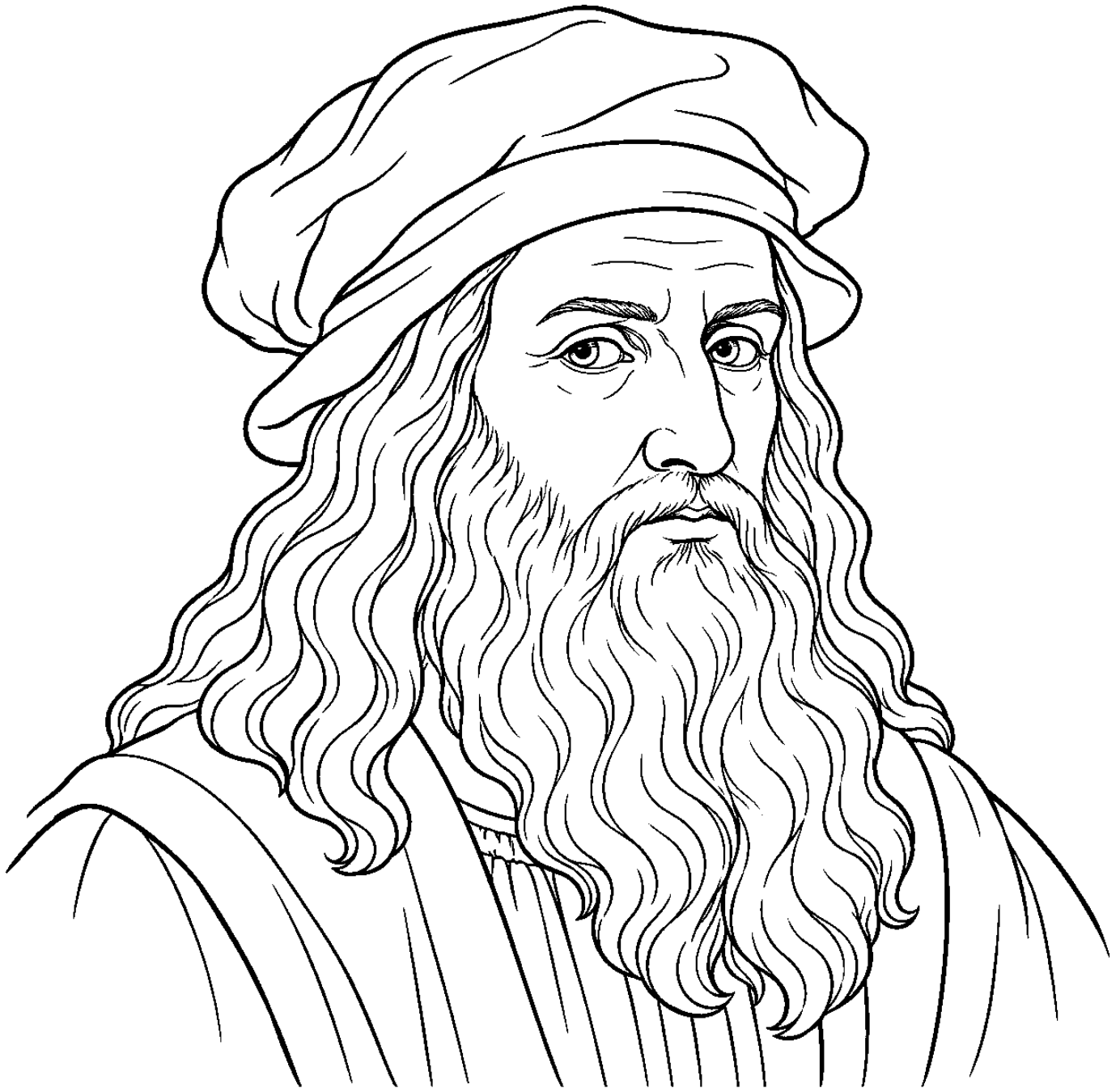
Galileo did not invent the telescope. His observations helped challenge accepted ideas about the heavens, while the history of his trial involves religion, institutions and politics.

THINK ABOUT IT

What should we do when careful observations challenge a familiar belief?

Leonardo da Vinci

1452-1519 | Italian states / France



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Leonardo da Vinci

Art and close observation

- 1 Leonardo was born near Vinci in Tuscany.
 - 2 He trained in the workshop of Andrea del Verrocchio.
 - 3 His paintings include the Mona Lisa and The Last Supper.
 - 4 His notebooks explore anatomy, water, machines and flight.
 - 5 He spent his final years in France under the patronage of Francis I.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

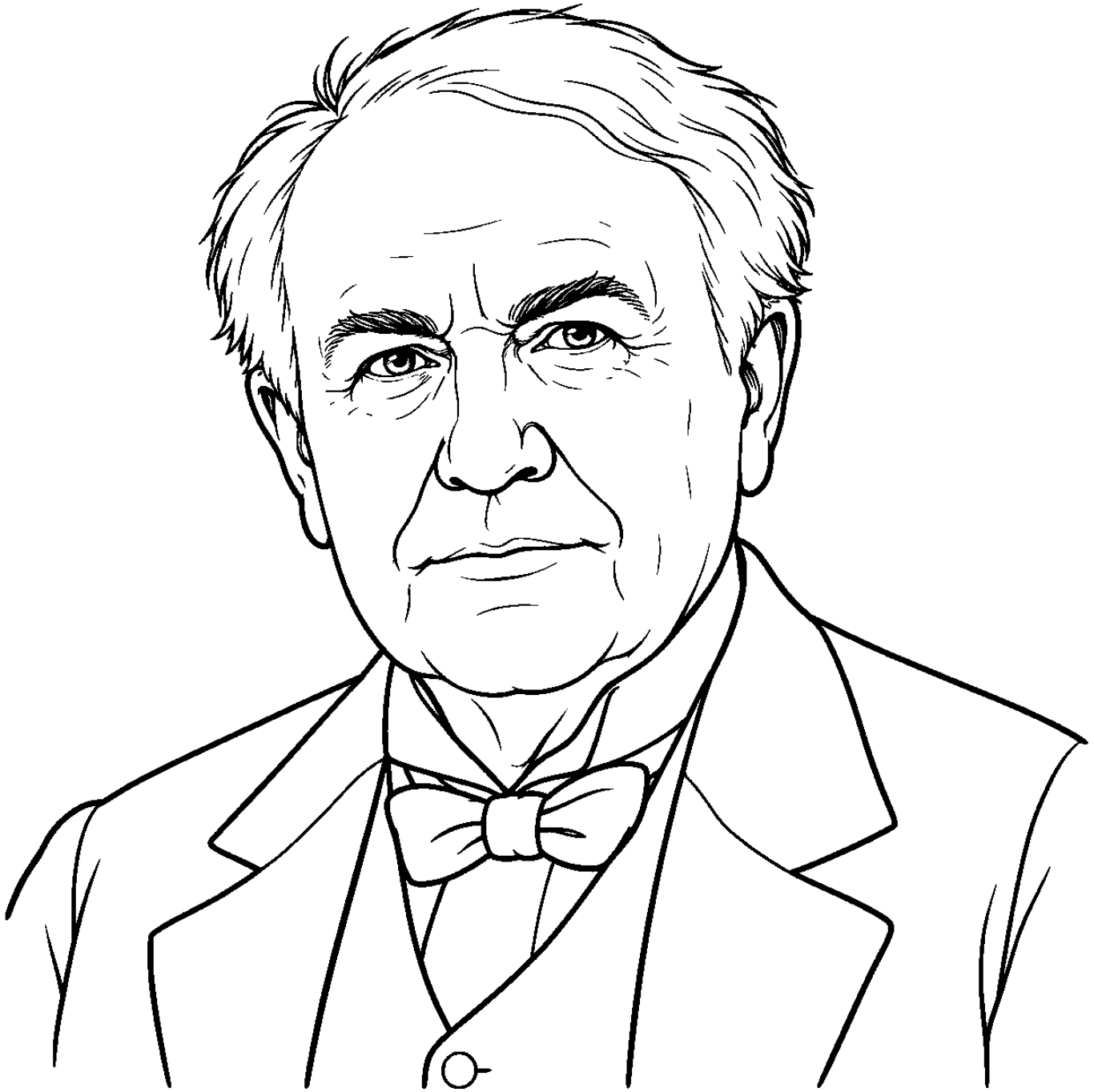
Many notebook designs were studies or proposals, rather than working inventions. Drawing helped Leonardo connect artistic curiosity with investigation.

THINK ABOUT IT

What could you learn by drawing the same natural object every day for a week?

Thomas Edison

1847-1931 | United States



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Thomas Edison

Inventing with a laboratory team

- 1 Edison was born in Milan, Ohio.
 - 2 He established a research laboratory at Menlo Park, New Jersey.
 - 3 He introduced the phonograph in 1877.
 - 4 His team developed a practical incandescent lighting system.
 - 5 He and his collaborators also worked on early motion-picture technology.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

Edison did not invent the first electric light. His importance includes developing workable systems, manufacturing and organized research with many collaborators.

THINK ABOUT IT

How is improving an existing invention different from inventing something entirely new?

Sources: profile 07, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Louis Pasteur

1822-1895 | France



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Louis Pasteur

Microbes, food and disease

- 1 Pasteur trained as a chemist.
- 2 He studied how microorganisms affect fermentation.
- 3 His work helped establish the role of microbes in disease.
- 4 Pasteurization uses controlled heating to reduce harmful microbes in foods and drinks.
- 5 His team developed vaccines, including a rabies treatment first used on a human in 1885.

CONTEXT MATTERS

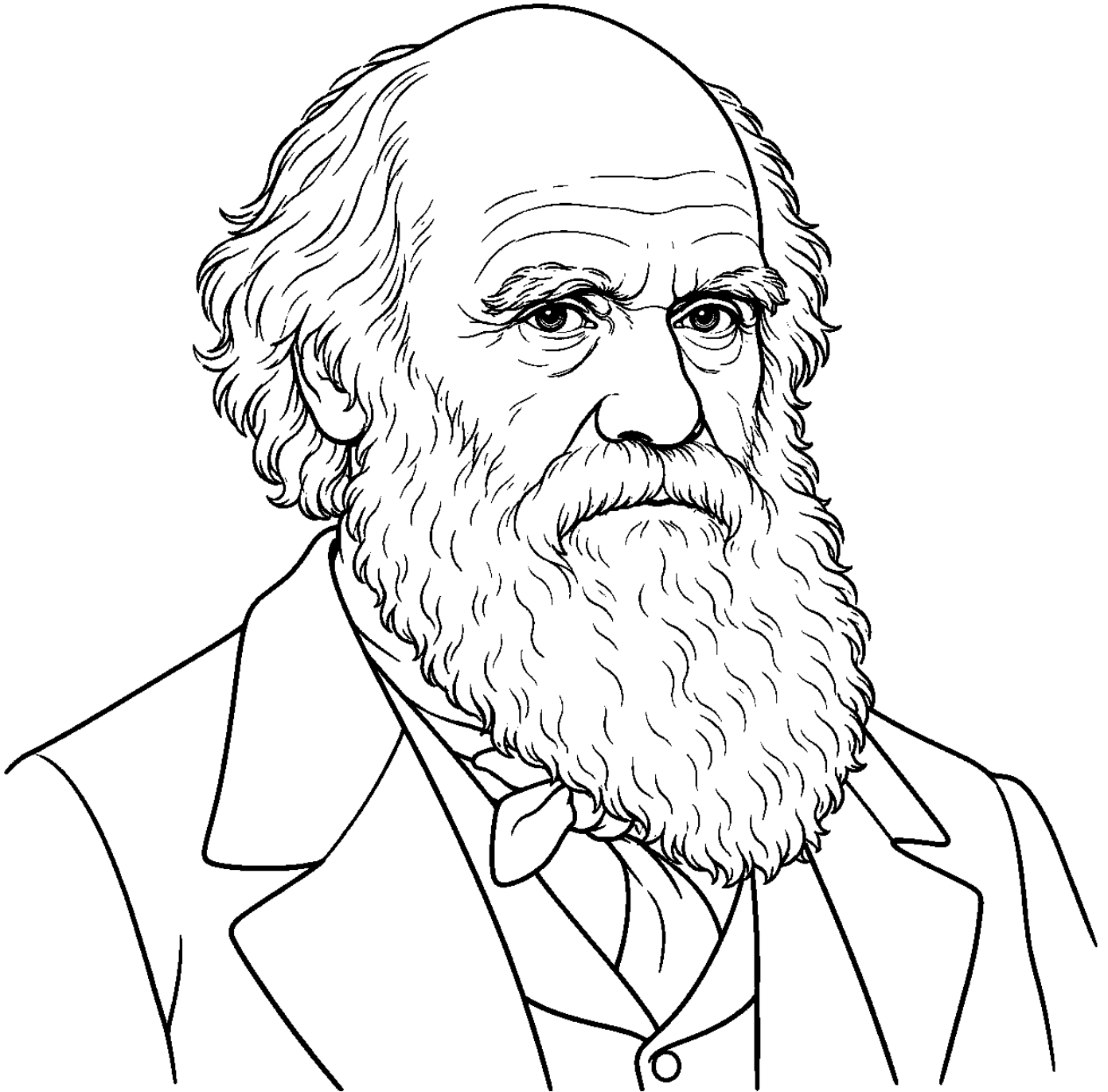
Laboratory science develops through repeated experiments and contributions from many people. Pasteurization does not mean that every microorganism has been removed.

THINK ABOUT IT

How can an invisible cause be investigated with visible evidence?

Charles Darwin

1809-1882 | England



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Charles Darwin

Explaining change in living things

- 1 Darwin sailed aboard HMS Beagle from 1831 to 1836.
 - 2 He collected observations of plants, animals, fossils and geology.
 - 3 He developed an explanation of evolution through natural selection.
 - 4 Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace jointly presented ideas on natural selection in 1858.
 - 5 On the Origin of Species was published in 1859.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

Natural selection describes changes in populations across generations. It does not mean that an individual can choose to evolve, or that progress has a fixed goal.

THINK ABOUT IT

Why might different environments favor different inherited traits?

Sources: profile 09, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Niels Bohr

1885-1962 | Denmark



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Niels Bohr

Models of the atom

- 1 Bohr was born in Copenhagen.
 - 2 In 1913 he proposed an atomic model with quantized electron energies.
 - 3 He received the 1922 Nobel Prize in Physics.
 - 4 His Copenhagen institute became a center for international physics.
 - 5 He helped develop quantum theory and discussed the responsibilities created by nuclear science.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

The familiar planetary picture of an atom is a learning model. Modern quantum mechanics describes atoms more fully than Bohr's early model.

THINK ABOUT IT

Why do scientists keep useful models while also explaining their limits?

Sources: profile 10, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Mother Teresa

1910-1997 | Born in present-day North Macedonia / India



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Mother Teresa

Religious service and care

- 1 She was born Anjeze Gonxhe Bojaxhiu in Skopje.
 - 2 She became a Catholic nun and moved to India.
 - 3 She founded the Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata in 1950.
 - 4 Her organization served people experiencing poverty, illness and social exclusion.
 - 5 She received the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

Her work inspired many volunteers. Her organization's medical practices and views have also drawn criticism, inviting discussion of both compassion and standards of care.

THINK ABOUT IT

What makes care respectful as well as compassionate?

Sources: profile 11, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Florence Nightingale

1820-1910 | Britain



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Florence Nightingale

Nursing and evidence-based reform

- 1 Nightingale was born in Florence to a British family.
 - 2 She organized nursing work during the Crimean War.
 - 3 She investigated sanitation and hospital conditions.
 - 4 She used statistics and visual diagrams to argue for reform.
 - 5 In 1860 she established a nursing training school at St Thomas' Hospital in London.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

Nursing reform was collective work. Nightingale's lasting influence includes training, administration and evidence, not only the image of a nurse carrying a lamp.

THINK ABOUT IT

How could a chart persuade someone to improve public services?

Sources: profile 12, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Jane Goodall

1934-2025 | Britain / Tanzania



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Jane Goodall

Chimpanzees and conservation

- 1 Goodall began studying wild chimpanzees at Gombe in 1960.
- 2 She observed chimpanzees making and using tools.
- 3 She documented their social relationships and individual behavior.
- 4 She founded the Jane Goodall Institute in 1977.
- 5 She helped launch Roots & Shoots in 1991 to support youth-led community and environmental action.

CONTEXT MATTERS

Goodall died in 2025. Her research helped change views of other animals, and her conservation work connected wildlife protection with local communities.

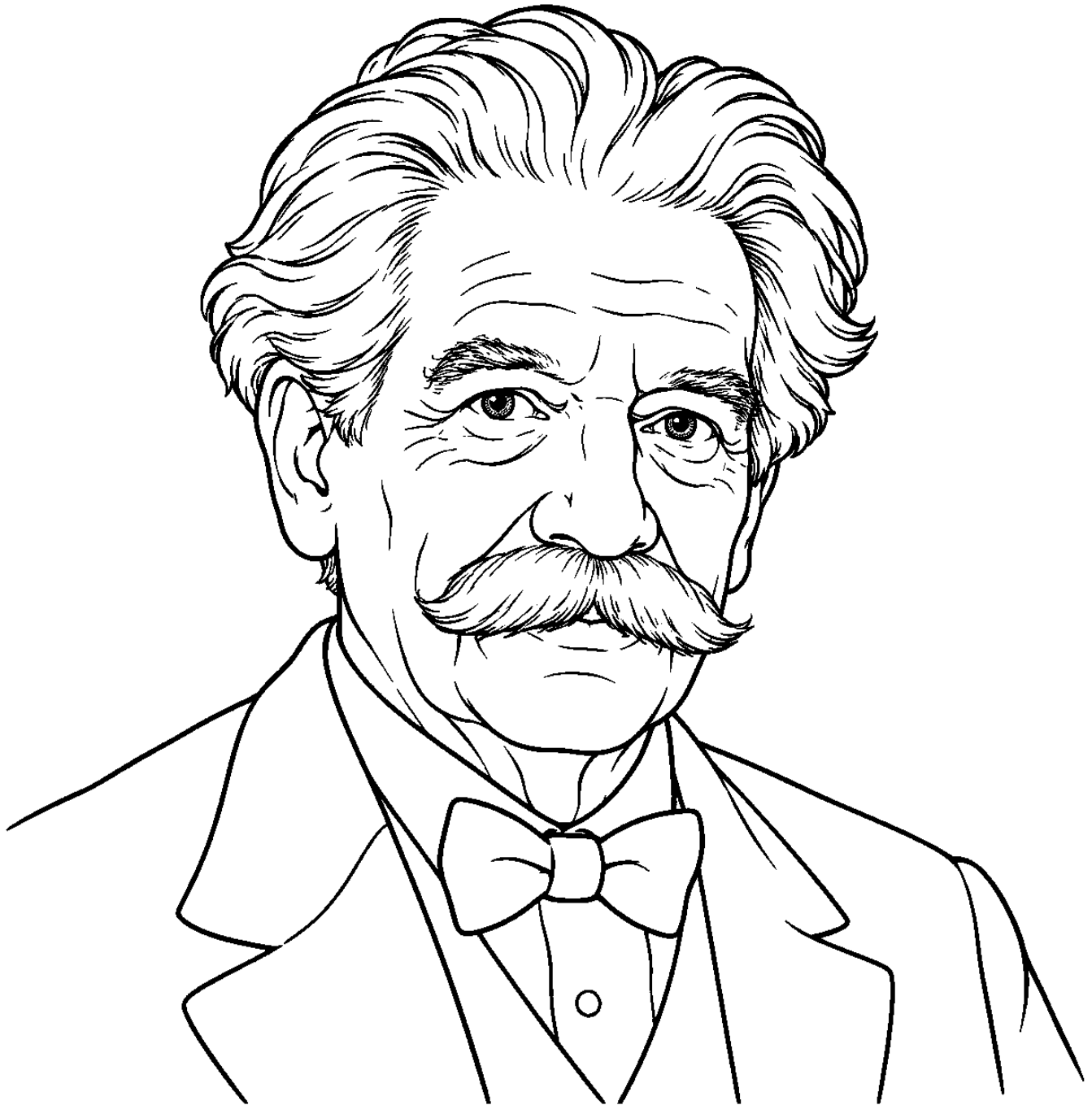
THINK ABOUT IT

How can protecting an animal also involve listening to the people living nearby?

Sources: profile 13, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Albert Schweitzer

1875-1965 | Alsace / Gabon



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Albert Schweitzer

Medicine, music and ethics

- 1 Schweitzer was born in Alsace, then part of the German Empire.
 - 2 He worked as a theologian, organist and physician.
 - 3 In 1913 he began medical work at Lambarene in present-day Gabon.
 - 4 He developed an ethical idea known as reverence for life.
 - 5 He received the Nobel Peace Prize for 1952.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

His hospital work gained international recognition. His paternalistic attitudes toward African people have also been criticized and belong in a fuller account of his legacy.

THINK ABOUT IT

Why should helping a community include respecting its knowledge and independence?

Sources: profile 14, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Martin Luther King Jr.

1929-1968 | United States



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Martin Luther King Jr.

Civil rights and nonviolent action

- 1 King was a Baptist minister and civil rights leader.
 - 2 He helped lead the Montgomery bus boycott.
 - 3 He advocated nonviolent direct action against racial segregation.
 - 4 He delivered his famous speech at the 1963 March on Washington.
 - 5 He received the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize and was assassinated in Memphis in 1968.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

The civil rights movement depended on thousands of organizers and participants. King's later campaigns also addressed poverty and the Vietnam War.

THINK ABOUT IT

How can a community challenge an unjust rule without using violence?

Sources: profile 15, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Nelson Mandela

1918-2013 | South Africa



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Nelson Mandela

From apartheid to democratic government

- 1 Mandela became a leader in the African National Congress.
 - 2 He opposed apartheid, the system of enforced racial segregation.
 - 3 He spent 27 years in prison.
 - 4 He shared the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize with F. W. de Klerk.
 - 5 In 1994 he became South Africa's first Black president after its first national election with universal adult suffrage.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

Mandela's political history included support for armed resistance as well as negotiation. Ending apartheid required collective struggle and did not end every inequality.

THINK ABOUT IT

What is the difference between reconciliation and forgetting an injustice?

Sources: profile 16, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Rosa Parks

1913-2005 | United States



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Rosa Parks

Organized courage

- 1 Parks worked as a seamstress and civil rights activist.
 - 2 She served as secretary of the Montgomery NAACP.
 - 3 On 1 December 1955 she refused to surrender her bus seat under segregation rules.
 - 4 Her arrest helped spark the Montgomery bus boycott.
 - 5 She continued civil rights work after moving to Detroit.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

Her action was part of sustained organizing, not simply a response to being physically tired. Other people also challenged bus segregation before her.

THINK ABOUT IT

What preparation can turn one act of courage into lasting change?

Sources: profile 17, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Harriet Tubman

c. 1822-1913 | United States



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Harriet Tubman

Freedom and mutual aid

- 1 Tubman was born enslaved on Maryland's Eastern Shore.
 - 2 She escaped slavery in 1849.
 - 3 She returned to help relatives and others reach freedom through the Underground Railroad.
 - 4 During the Civil War she served Union forces as a nurse, scout and spy.
 - 5 In later life she supported women's suffrage and care for older people.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

The Underground Railroad was a network of people and safe places, not a literal railway. Tubman's work involved exceptional danger and cooperation.

THINK ABOUT IT

Why are trust and local knowledge important when helping people in danger?

Sources: profile 18, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Malala Yousafzai

Born 1997 | Pakistan / international advocacy



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Malala Yousafzai

The right to learn

- 1 Malala grew up in Pakistan's Swat Valley.
 - 2 She spoke publicly for girls' education.
 - 3 She survived a Taliban attack in 2012.
 - 4 She co-founded Malala Fund with her father in 2013.
 - 5 At 17 she shared the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize with Kailash Satyarthi.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

Her advocacy highlights girls whose access to school is limited by violence, poverty or discrimination. Education rights also depend on safe schools and sustained public support.

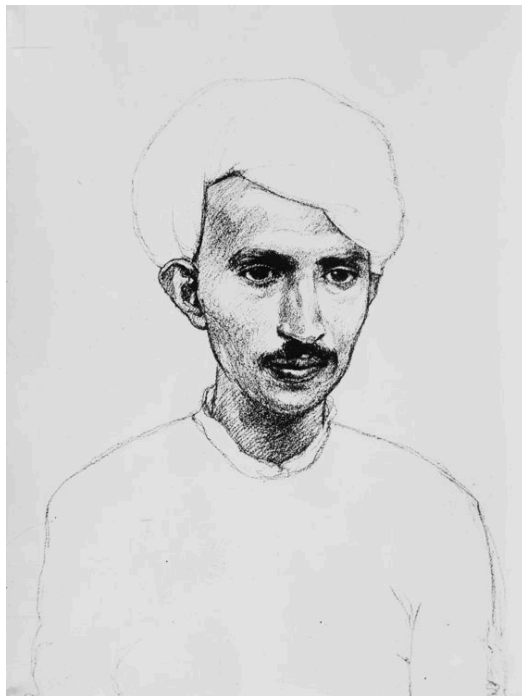
THINK ABOUT IT

What practical changes would make education more accessible in your community?

Sources: profile 19, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Mahatma Gandhi

1869-1948 | India / South Africa



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YOUR PORTRAIT STUDY

LOOK, DRAW & ADD COLOR

Study the source portrait above. Draw your own version in the space, then add color and a meaningful background.

Mahatma Gandhi

Nonviolent resistance

- 1 Gandhi trained as a lawyer in London.
- 2 His experiences in South Africa shaped his political organizing.
- 3 He developed satyagraha, a method of nonviolent resistance.
- 4 He led the Salt March in India in 1930.
- 5 He became a major figure in India's independence movement and was assassinated in 1948.

CONTEXT MATTERS

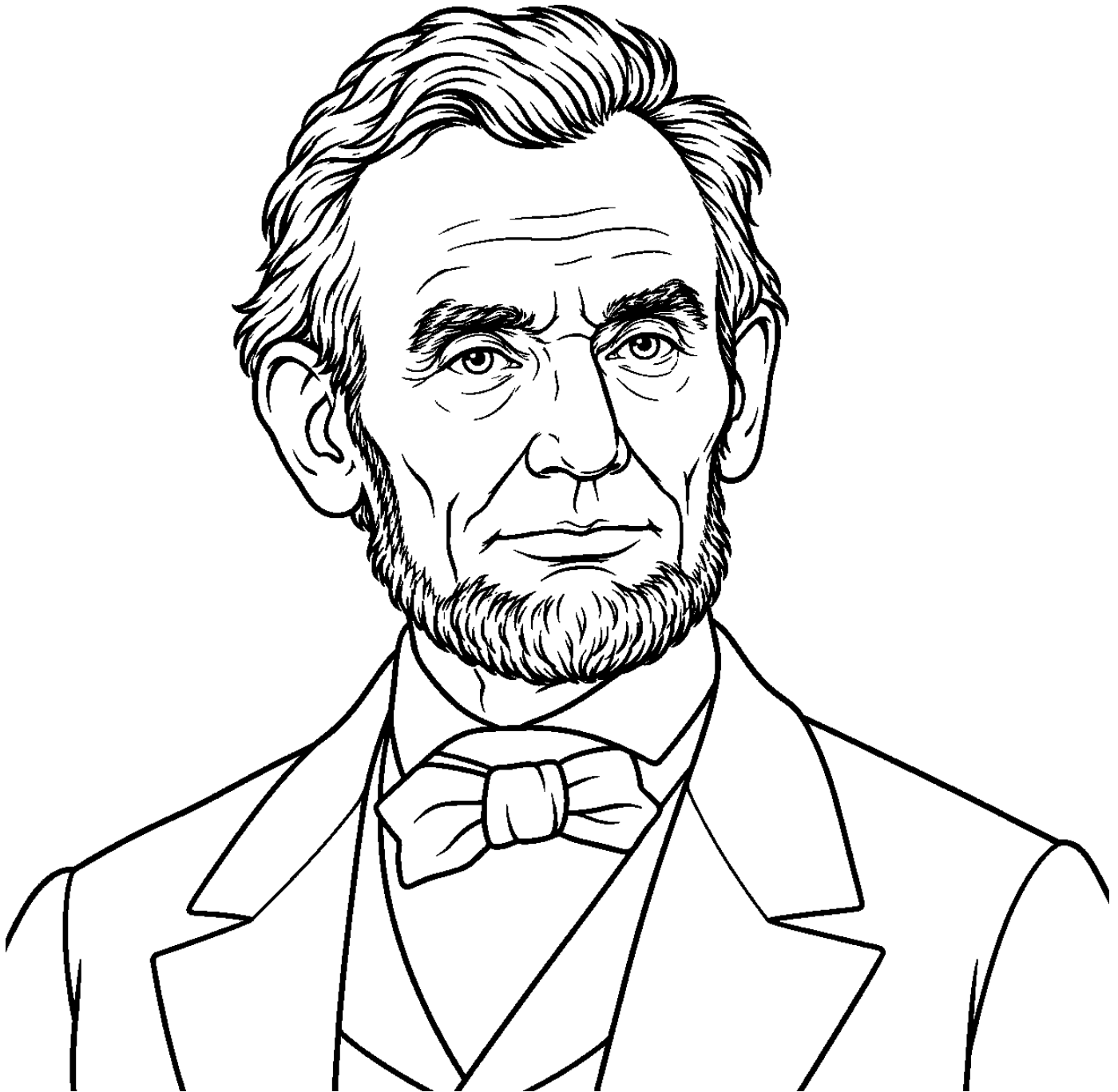
His methods influenced later movements. His views on race and caste also invite critical study; a person's influence does not make every belief admirable.

THINK ABOUT IT

When can refusing to cooperate with an unjust system become a powerful action?

Abraham Lincoln

1809-1865 | United States



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Abraham Lincoln

Union, slavery and the presidency

- 1 Lincoln became the 16th US president in 1861.
 - 2 He led the Union during the Civil War.
 - 3 His 1863 Emancipation Proclamation declared freedom for enslaved people in areas then in rebellion.
 - 4 He supported the Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery.
 - 5 He was assassinated in April 1865.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

The proclamation did not immediately free every enslaved person. Abolition resulted from enslaved people's actions, activism, war and constitutional change.

THINK ABOUT IT

Why is it important to distinguish a declaration of rights from its enforcement?

Sources: profile 21, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

John F. Kennedy

1917-1963 | United States



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

John F. Kennedy

Leadership during the Cold War

- 1 Kennedy became the 35th US president in 1961.
 - 2 His administration established the Peace Corps.
 - 3 He set a national goal of landing a person on the Moon before the decade ended.
 - 4 He confronted the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.
 - 5 He was assassinated in Dallas in 1963.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

His presidency included both diplomatic achievements and serious failures, including the Bay of Pigs invasion. The Moon landing occurred in 1969, after his death.

THINK ABOUT IT

How can leaders balance ambitious goals with careful assessment of risk?

Sources: profile 22, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Mohamed Salah

Born 1992 | Egypt / international football



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Mohamed Salah

Football, persistence and teamwork

- 1 Salah was born in Egypt on 15 June 1992.
 - 2 He began his senior career with El Mokawloon before building a career in European football.
 - 3 He joined Liverpool from AS Roma in June 2017.
 - 4 He helped Liverpool win the 2019 Champions League and the Premier League in 2019-20 and 2024-25.
 - 5 He won four Premier League Golden Boots during his Liverpool career.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

An individual player can inspire millions, but football achievements depend on teammates, coaches and years of practice. Salah's journey connects Egyptian football with audiences around the world.

THINK ABOUT IT

How can an athlete combine individual ambition with responsibility to a team?

Sources: profile 23, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Margaret Thatcher

1925-2013 | United Kingdom



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Margaret Thatcher

Economic policy and political debate

- 1 Thatcher studied chemistry at Oxford and later trained as a lawyer.
 - 2 She became leader of the Conservative Party in 1975.
 - 3 She served as UK prime minister from 1979 to 1990.
 - 4 Her government pursued privatization and reduced trade-union power.
 - 5 She was Britain's first woman prime minister.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

Supporters credit her with economic changes; critics emphasize unemployment, inequality and industrial decline. Her influence is substantial and remains contested.

THINK ABOUT IT

How could the same economic policy help one group and harm another?

Sources: profile 24, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Julius Caesar

100-44 BCE | Roman Republic



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Julius Caesar

Power and the end of a republic

- 1 Caesar was a Roman general, writer and political leader.
 - 2 He led Roman campaigns in Gaul.
 - 3 He crossed the Rubicon with his army in 49 BCE, beginning civil war.
 - 4 He became dictator and introduced a calendar reform.
 - 5 A group of senators assassinated him in 44 BCE.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

Caesar was not a Roman emperor. His conquests brought enormous suffering, and his accumulation of power helped undermine republican institutions.

THINK ABOUT IT

What can happen when military power becomes stronger than shared political rules?

Sources: profile 25, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Alexander the Great

356-323 BCE | Ancient Macedon



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Alexander the Great

Conquest and cultural exchange

- 1 Alexander became king of Macedon in 336 BCE.
 - 2 He defeated the Achaemenid Persian Empire.
 - 3 He founded cities, including Alexandria in Egypt.
 - 4 His campaigns reached the Indian subcontinent.
 - 5 He died in Babylon in 323 BCE, and his empire divided after his death.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

His conquests spread Greek influence and encouraged cultural exchange, while also causing destruction, displacement and loss of life.

THINK ABOUT IT

How can we study cultural exchange without overlooking the violence of conquest?

Sources: profile 26, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Confucius

551-479 BCE, traditional dates | Ancient China



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Confucius

Learning, relationships and responsibility

- 1 Confucius lived during China's Spring and Autumn period.
 - 2 He taught about ethical conduct, education and good government.
 - 3 He emphasized humane behavior and the responsibilities within relationships.
 - 4 His followers preserved teachings associated with him in the Analects.
 - 5 Confucian traditions influenced education and government across East Asia.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

The Analects was compiled by later followers. Confucian traditions changed over time and have been interpreted in many different ways.

THINK ABOUT IT

What responsibilities come with being a teacher, a friend or a public official?

Sources: profile 27, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Rumi

1207-1273 | Persian-speaking world / Konya, present-day Türkiye



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Rumi

Poetry and spiritual reflection

- 1 Rumi is also known as Jalal al-Din Muhammad Balkhi.
 - 2 He was a Muslim scholar and Sufi poet.
 - 3 He spent much of his life in Konya.
 - 4 He wrote major works in Persian, including the Masnavi.
 - 5 His meeting with Shams of Tabriz deeply influenced his spiritual and poetic life.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

Many popular English sayings attributed to Rumi are loose adaptations. Reading named translations helps preserve his language, religious setting and poetic meaning.

THINK ABOUT IT

What can a poem express that a factual statement cannot?

Maimonides

1138-1204 | Al-Andalus / North Africa / Egypt



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Maimonides

Reason, medicine and Jewish learning

- 1 Maimonides was born Moses ben Maimon in Cordoba.
 - 2 He lived in North Africa before settling in Egypt.
 - 3 He worked as a physician and Jewish legal scholar.
 - 4 His Mishneh Torah organized Jewish law.
 - 5 His Guide of the Perplexed explored philosophy, religious interpretation and reason.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

He wrote in Hebrew and Judeo-Arabic. His life shows how intellectual traditions developed through contact among Jewish, Muslim and classical Greek learning.

THINK ABOUT IT

How can learning across languages expand a person's understanding?

Sources: profile 29, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Ahmed Zewail

1946-2016 | Egypt / United States



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Ahmed Zewail

Chemistry at extraordinary speed

- 1 Zewail was born in Damanhur, Egypt, in 1946.
- 2 He studied at Alexandria University before earning his doctorate at the University of Pennsylvania.
- 3 He joined the California Institute of Technology in 1976.
- 4 He used ultrashort laser pulses to study how molecules change during chemical reactions.
- 5 He received the 1999 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for research using femtosecond spectroscopy.

CONTEXT MATTERS

Zewail helped establish femtochemistry: studying reactions on extremely short timescales. His work shows how new instruments can make previously inaccessible processes measurable. Scientific progress also depends on research teams and sustained support for education.

THINK ABOUT IT

What might scientists discover when a new instrument lets them observe something that once happened too quickly to measure?

Sources: profile 30, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Walt Disney

1901-1966 | United States



Unknown photographer, 1929 / Wikimedia Commons. Public domain in the United States.

YOUR PORTRAIT STUDY

LOOK, DRAW & ADD COLOR

Study the source portrait above. Draw your own version in the space, then add color and a meaningful background.

Walt Disney

Animation and entertainment

- 1 Disney was born in Chicago.
 - 2 He founded a studio with his brother Roy in 1923.
 - 3 He helped develop Mickey Mouse with collaborators including Ub Iwerks.
 - 4 His studio released Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs in 1937.
 - 5 Disneyland opened in California in 1955.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

Animation is collaborative work involving artists, performers and technicians. Studios' histories also include labor disputes and changing cultural stereotypes.

THINK ABOUT IT

How does a team turn a small drawing into a shared imaginary world?

Sources: profile 31, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Steve Jobs

1955-2011 | United States



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Steve Jobs

Computers, design and business

- 1 Jobs co-founded Apple with Steve Wozniak and Ronald Wayne in 1976.
 - 2 He helped bring the Macintosh computer to market in 1984.
 - 3 After leaving Apple he founded NeXT.
 - 4 He acquired the company that became Pixar in 1986.
 - 5 He returned to Apple, where teams developed products including the iPod and iPhone.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

Jobs helped shape product strategy and presentation; he did not invent these devices alone. Designers, engineers, manufacturers and users all contributed.

THINK ABOUT IT

What makes a technological product useful as well as visually appealing?

Sources: profile 32, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

William Shakespeare

1564-1616 | England



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

William Shakespeare

Language and the stage

- 1 Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon.
 - 2 He worked in London as a playwright, actor and company shareholder.
 - 3 His company became known as the King's Men.
 - 4 His plays include Hamlet, Macbeth and A Midsummer Night's Dream.
 - 5 The First Folio collected many of his plays in 1623, after his death.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

His works survive through performance, printing and adaptation. They also reflect assumptions about gender, power and identity that readers can examine critically.

THINK ABOUT IT

How can performing the same scene in two different ways change its meaning?

Sources: profile 33, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Ludwig van Beethoven

1770-1827 | Born in Bonn / worked in Vienna



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Ludwig van Beethoven

Music and creative persistence

- 1 Beethoven was born in Bonn and later settled in Vienna.
 - 2 He worked as a pianist and composer.
 - 3 His music links the Classical and Romantic eras.
 - 4 He continued composing as his hearing deteriorated.
 - 5 His Ninth Symphony, first performed in 1824, includes a choral finale.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

His deafness shaped his experience but does not explain all of his artistry. Musical creation also depended on study, revision, performers and patrons.

THINK ABOUT IT

How can artists adapt their working methods when circumstances change?

Sources: profile 34, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Frida Kahlo

1907-1954 | Mexico



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Frida Kahlo

Self-portraiture and identity

- 1 Kahlo was born in Coyoacan, Mexico City.
 - 2 She experienced polio in childhood and serious injuries in a bus accident.
 - 3 Her paintings often explore her body, pain, identity and Mexican culture.
 - 4 She painted many self-portraits.
 - 5 Her family home, the Blue House, became a museum after her death.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

Kahlo's work has personal and political dimensions. Her artistic decisions deserve attention alongside, rather than only through, the story of her injuries.

THINK ABOUT IT

What objects or colors would you include in a self-portrait to express your identity?

Sources: profile 35, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Amelia Earhart

1897-disappeared 1937 | United States



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Amelia Earhart

Aviation and opportunity

- 1 Earhart became widely known after crossing the Atlantic as a passenger in 1928.
- 2 In 1932 she became the first woman to fly solo nonstop across the Atlantic.
- 3 She helped found the Ninety-Nines organization for women pilots.
- 4 She advocated opportunities for women in aviation.
- 5 She and navigator Fred Noonan disappeared in 1937 during an attempted flight around the world.

CONTEXT MATTERS

Their disappearance remains unresolved. Distinguish documented flight history from theories that lack conclusive evidence.

THINK ABOUT IT

What preparation would an explorer need before attempting a difficult journey?

Sources: profile 36, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Muhammad Ali

1942-2016 | United States



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Muhammad Ali

Sport, conviction and public influence

- 1 Ali was born Cassius Clay in Louisville, Kentucky.
- 2 He won an Olympic boxing gold medal in 1960.
- 3 He won the world heavyweight title in 1964.
- 4 He adopted the name Muhammad Ali after joining the Nation of Islam.
- 5 He refused induction into the US military in 1967; the Supreme Court reversed his conviction in 1971.

CONTEXT MATTERS

His opposition to the Vietnam War cost him years of competition. His public life also included religious change, humanitarian work and living with Parkinson's disease.

THINK ABOUT IT

What responsibilities do famous athletes have when speaking about public issues?

Sources: profile 37, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Bruce Lee

1940-1973 | Hong Kong / United States



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Bruce Lee

Martial arts and film

- 1 Lee was born in San Francisco and grew up in Hong Kong.
 - 2 He studied martial arts and later taught in the United States.
 - 3 He developed an approach known as Jeet Kune Do.
 - 4 His films helped bring Hong Kong martial-arts cinema to international audiences.
 - 5 Enter the Dragon was released in 1973, shortly after his death.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

His influence crosses physical training, philosophy and screen representation. Film choreography is designed for performance and is not a guide to safe self-defense.

THINK ABOUT IT

How can combining ideas from different traditions lead to a new approach?

Michael Jackson

1958-2009 | United States



HannaAsfours / Wikimedia Commons. Released to the public domain by the artist.

YOUR PORTRAIT STUDY

LOOK, DRAW & ADD COLOR

Study the source portrait above. Draw your own version in the space, then add color and a meaningful background.

Michael Jackson

Popular music and visual performance

- 1 Jackson was born in Gary, Indiana.
- 2 He became a child performer with the Jackson 5.
- 3 His 1979 solo album *Off the Wall* reached a wide audience.
- 4 *Thriller*, released in 1982, became one of the best-selling albums in history.
- 5 His music videos, choreography and stage performances influenced popular entertainment worldwide.

CONTEXT MATTERS

His legacy includes major artistic influence and serious child sexual-abuse allegations, which he denied. He was acquitted in his 2005 criminal trial; allegations continued after his death.

THINK ABOUT IT

How can we discuss an artist's influence while taking concerns about conduct seriously?

Sources: profile 39, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Helen Keller

1880-1968 | United States



COLOR WITH PURPOSE

Choose a palette. Add a background detail that connects this person to the ideas on the facing page.

Helen Keller

Communication, education and rights

- 1 Keller lost her sight and hearing after an illness in early childhood.
 - 2 Anne Sullivan became her teacher in 1887.
 - 3 She graduated from Radcliffe College in 1904.
 - 4 She wrote books and articles and spoke publicly about disability rights.
 - 5 She worked with the American Foundation for the Blind for decades.
-

CONTEXT MATTERS

Keller was an author and political activist, not simply the subject of a story about a teacher. Her achievements also show the importance of accessible education and communication.

THINK ABOUT IT

What changes can a school make so that more people can participate fully?

Sources: profile 40, pages 89-95. / Add one new fact from a reliable source.

Connect two lives

Choose two people from different fields or places. Compare evidence from their profiles. There is more than one thoughtful answer.

Person A / Person B

What challenge did each face?

Who helped them, and whose contributions might be overlooked?

What changed because of their work or choices?

Which effects were helpful? Which effects were harmful or disputed?

What question would you ask each person?

Build a timeline

Put these events in order from earliest to latest. Write a year, a person and one sentence explaining why the event matters.

Publication of On the Origin of Species

First Moon-landing goal announced by Kennedy

Introduction of Edison's phonograph

Mandela becomes president of South Africa

Publication of Newton's Principia

Malala receives the Nobel Peace Prize

Curie shares her first Nobel Prize

Parks' arrest sparks a bus boycott

Whose face comes next?

This selection leaves out many people and places. Propose a new profile: an educator, artist, scientist, community organizer or another influential person. Fame is not the only kind of impact.

Name and connections to places

Five facts you can verify

One achievement, one limitation or question

Two sources, with titles and links

Evidence, answers and discussion

Timeline answer key

1687 - Newton, Principia.
1859 - Darwin, On the Origin of Species.
1877 - Edison, phonograph.
1903 - Curie, Physics Nobel Prize.
1955 - Parks, Montgomery bus arrest.
1961 - Kennedy, Moon-landing goal.
1994 - Mandela, South African presidency.
2014 - Malala, Nobel Peace Prize.

Three checks for a new fact

1. Who produced the source, and what expertise or evidence do they provide?
2. Is the claim a documented event, an interpretation, or a quotation?
3. Can another reliable source confirm it? Record uncertainty rather than inventing detail.

A simple classroom rubric: 10 points

Accurate, sourced facts: 4 points.
Thoughtful use of context: 2 points.
Clear comparison or explanation: 2 points.
Creative choices explained: 2 points.
Assess reasoning and care; artistic skill is not a requirement.

Discussion extension

Choose one profile and find the work of a less famous collaborator. Explain how the story changes when that person is included.

Explore the evidence

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A face is a beginning. A question opens the story.

Meet forty people whose ideas, actions and creative work left a mark on the world. Color their portraits. Discover 200 facts. Explore what they achieved, who helped them, and why their legacies still invite questions.

FOR CURIOUS READERS, FAMILIES & CLASSROOMS

About the author

Dr. Wagih Elgohary is an educator, artist and founder of World Cultures & Education. He holds a Ph.D. in Organization & Management, an Ed.D. in Instructional Leadership, and a BFA in Fine Arts. His work connects language learning, creative practice and cultural understanding.

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