

Online biographies—Pre-Intermediate

Let's discuss

A Read the text and answer the questions.

- Ask students to read the text and discuss the questions in pairs.
- Elicit why reading an online biography could be more interesting than a traditional book biography (because you can add photos, video and/or audio content and constantly update information).

Writing an online biography: Extra information

There are some great ways for students to visually organize the information they have gathered and/or created about a particular historical figure online. There are online tools which have been designed to help history students and which make learning about famous people much more fun and interactive.

This could also be called 'making a profile' of a historical figure. Students can research some basic information about a person and create a profile, then try to build a full biographical picture. If there is a lot of information to gather, students could do this in groups and work on different periods in a famous person's life. This type of profiling could also be autobiographical and your students could find out about their classmates' lives.

- Go online and show students a biography of one of the famous people they have learnt about in this unit. Elicit ideas for any extra information they would like to include.

Key

- 1 *It has the same information but also includes an extra interesting fact.*
- 2 *Students' own answers.*
- 3 *Imagining a conversation the famous person might have with a friend or family member, an audio file or video of the person speaking or information about his/her hobbies and interests.*

- Go online and type keywords to find websites that can help students create an online biographies.
- Try making a group biography of a famous person using suggestions from the class. Create the biography on screen.

Let's do it!

- Ask students to create a biography about a historical figure.
- Once you have all the links to the biographies, use one lesson to view them all as a class. Students can vote for their favourites and choose the best three.

TIPS!

Writing an online biography

Before class, look for websites online that allow you to create interactive posters for free, using different types of media by searching for "online biography maker" online.

It is best if you practise on your chosen website in advance of the lesson, to make sure you understand its features and also to create a sample to demonstrate to your students.

Key

- 1 *It can include information about that person's life, career and the reasons why they are famous. (Accept other suggestions from students.)*
- 2 *Students' own answers.*

Let's analyse

A Look at the example of how you could organize an online biography. Answer the questions in groups.

- Ask students to look at the example of how to organize an online biography and discuss the questions in groups. Elicit some answers and discuss as a class.