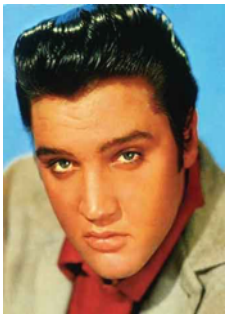
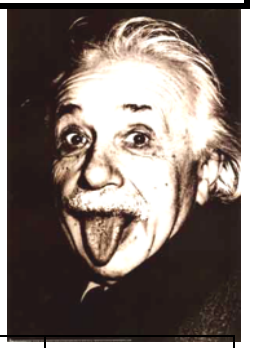
Life Stories



Albert Einstein • Joan of Arc • Florence Nightingale • William Shakespeare • Marco Polo • Elvis Presley • Sean Connery • Bill Clinton • ~~Marie Curie~~ • Neil Armstrong • George Custer • Winston Churchill • Charles de Gaulle • Oliver Cromwell • Margaret Thatcher • Henry Ford • Hillary Clinton • Roger Federer



She was born in Poland in 1867. She married a French scientist. They worked together on radioactivity, about which little was known at this time. In 1903 they received the Nobel Prize in physics. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize. Together with her husband she discovered two new elements, named polonium (after Poland) and radium. Her husband was killed in 1903, but she went on working. She became ill from handling the dangerous radioactive material. She died in 1934.	*Marie Curie*
He was born in 1879 in Germany. Later he lived for a short time in Switzerland and then in the USA. He was fascinated by space, time, and motion. His theory of relativity changed science. He showed that matter and energy are different forms of the same thing. A small piece of matter can be changed into a vast amount of energy. That is the secret of atomic power.	
He had amazing adventures. He was born in Venice, Italy, in 1254. His father and uncle were merchants. They travelled as far as China, where few Europeans had ever been. In 1271 they set off again, taking the young boy with them. They travelled by sea, on foot, and on horses and camels, crossing mountains and deserts. In 1275 they reached China. He remained in China for 17 years, working for the Chinese emperor. In 1292 he set off for Italy. The journey took three years. He wrote about his travels, telling people in Europe about the wonders of Asia.	
She was born about 1412 in a village in France. France was losing a long war with England. She was a simple farmer's daughter. Yet one day she left home and went off to save her country. She said she heard voices from heaven, telling her what to do. She asked the French king to let her lead his soldiers, and they won battle after battle. In 1430 she was captured. The English said she was a witch. In 1431 she was burned to death in Rouen. In 1920 she was declared a saint.	
The founder of modern nursing was born in 1820. She shocked her parents by becoming a nurse; nursing was not considered ladylike. She trained in Germany and worked in London. In 1854 the British government asked her to go and nurse soldiers wounded in the Crimean War. In an army hospital in Turkey she found sick men lying on the filthy floor. There were rats everywhere, no good food, and no soap and water for washing. She worked night and day to set things right. The soldiers loved her. The generals and doctors at first did not help her, but then came to admire her courage and skill. On her return home she founded a school for nursing and her ideas were copied in hospitals everywhere.	
He led Britain through World War II (1939-45). He was born in 1874. He did badly at school. He joined the army, fought in India and in Sudan. During the Boer War in South Africa, he was captured by the enemy, but escaped. He was elected as a Member of Parliament and held several important jobs in government. In 1940, Britain faced defeat in World War II. He became prime minister and helped plan the Allies' victory. People around the world listened to his speeches on the radio. When he died in 1965, he was called „the greatest Englishman of the century."	
He was probably the greatest writer who ever lived. People everywhere still read and perform his plays and poems. He was born in 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, England. He married, went to London, and became an actor. In 1594 he began writing plays for an important company of actors. He wrote 37 plays in all. Tragedies: Hamlet, histories: Julius Caesar, and comedies: As You Like It. He died in 1616.	
He was born in Michigan, in 1863. He was an engineer. He heard of the new gasoline-engine automobile. The first cars were made in Europe. He wanted to build cars in America. In 1903, he started his own firm. Cars were expensive because they were built one at a time by hand. He decided to use an assembly line to make his Model T. Each worker added a part as the car moved by on the assembly line. These cars were cheap enough for ordinary families, which made driving popular.	
He came from a very poor family and became a millionaire. He was born 1935 in Mississippi. He went to church every Sunday and sang in the choir. When he was 13, his mother bought him a guitar. In 1954 he went to a recording studio to make a record for his mother's birthday. *That's All Right, Mama* was played on radio stations and American teenagers went wild. He became the King of Rock and Roll, but in his last years he was a very lonely man. He died in 1977.	