



Pablo Picasso

PABLO PICASSO

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. What kind of art do you like?
2. Do you have a favorite artist?
3. Have you seen a painting by Picasso?
4. Have you heard of a style of painting called “cubism”?
5. What do you imagine it means?





ESL Lesson Plans - Famous People - Pablo Picasso

Pablo Picasso

Pablo Picasso was an artist who is most famous for inventing new and very different ways to paint.

Picasso was born on October 25, 1881, in Malaga, Spain. His father was also an artist. When he was young, Picasso studied art with his father and at art schools in Malaga and then in Barcelona. In 1897, he went to the Royal Academy in Madrid, but left and went home to Barcelona.

In Barcelona, he became part of a group of artists and writers. Picasso began to travel to Paris in 1900 to meet and work with other young artists. After 1904, he lived in France most of the time.

During his long life, Picasso painted in many different ways. From 1901 to 1904, he did most of his paintings in blue. This is called his Blue Period. From 1904 to 1906, he used mostly red and pink, which is called his Pink Period.

In 1907, he invented a new kind of painting called cubism. People and objects were not painted as they are seen in real life. Instead, they were painted as geometrical forms, such as cubes. At first, most people did not like this new type of painting, but it slowly became more popular. In 1937, Picasso painted Guernica, one of his most famous cubist paintings. It shows his view of the death and destruction caused when Spanish civilians were bombed during the Spanish Civil War. The painting is now considered to be a masterpiece.

Picasso worked on many other new types of paintings, but he was also a sculptor and a designer. In 1917, he designed the set and the costumes for a ballet. In the 1940s, he wrote a play and two books of poetry.

Picasso was very poor when he was a young artist, but he became wealthy and very famous. He was married twice and had four children. He died at age 91 in Antibes, France, on April 8, 1973.

**COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**

A. True or False. Read the statements below. If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence. If it is false, write F. If it is false, correct the information.

1. Picasso was born in France and died in Spain. _____
2. Picasso made a lot of money when he was young. _____
3. Picasso created new styles of art. _____
4. Guernica was painted during his Blue Period. _____
5. The style of cubism became popular immediately. _____

B. Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner. Then write the answers in complete sentences.

1. As an artist, what is Picasso most famous for? _____

2. Where did he study art? _____

3. Why did he begin to spend a lot of time in France? _____

4. Explain the style of painting called cubism. _____

5. What were two of his earlier styles of painting? _____

6. What does his painting Guernica represent? _____

7. Besides painting, what other forms of artistic expression did he use? _____

8. Did Picasso remain poor throughout his life? _____


VOCABULARY REVIEW
A. Match the words on the left with the correct meaning on the right.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| _____ 1. invent | a) rich |
| _____ 2. geometrical | b) well-liked |
| _____ 3. popular | c) opinion, way of thinking or seeing things |
| _____ 4. view | d) create or make something new |
| _____ 5. destruction | e) a form of dance |
| _____ 6. civilian | f) well-known |
| _____ 7. masterpiece | g) relating to lines, angles, figures, shapes |
| _____ 8. sculptor | h) clothing used in special festivals or performances |
| _____ 9. designer | i) citizen, person not in the army |
| _____ 10. costume | j) someone who draws, creates, makes something |
| _____ 11. ballet | k) a piece of art done with very great skill |
| _____ 12. wealthy | l) breaking, ruining, destroying |
| _____ 13. famous | m) a person who makes pieces of art out of clay, wood, metal, etc. |

B. Complete the chart below by placing the following words in the correct column; then provide the corresponding word form for each. Write sentences using each of the word forms.

invent, view, destruction, sculptor, designer

Noun	Verb



ESL Lesson Plans - Famous People - Pablo Picasso

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What makes a piece of art valuable?
2. Why do you think many artists do not become famous until after their deaths?
3. There are many famous masterpieces from around the world. Can you name some of them and their artists?
4. Have you ever been to a famous art gallery? Where was it? What did you see?

Notes:



ESL Lesson Plans - Famous People - Pablo Picasso

ANSWER KEY
PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1 - 5 individual answers

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS
A. True or False

1. F 2. F 3. T 4. F 5. F

B. Written Answers

1. Picasso is most famous for inventing new and very different ways to paint.
2. He studied art with his father, who was an artist, as well as at art schools in Malaga, Barcelona, and Madrid.
3. He wanted to meet and work with other young artists who were living there.
4. In the style of painting called cubism, people and objects are painted as geometric forms such as cubes.
5. During one period he did most of his paintings in blue and in another style he used mostly red and pink.
6. Guernica represents his views on the death and destruction that occurred during the Spanish Civil War.
7. Besides painting, he was also a sculptor, a designer and a writer.
8. Picasso did not remain poor. He became very wealthy and famous.

VOCABULARY REVIEW
A. Matching

1. d 2. g 3. b 4. c 5. l 6. i 7. k 8. m
-
9. j 10. h 11. e 12. a 13. f

B. Word Forms

Noun	Verb
invention	invent
view	view
destruction	destroy
sculptor	sculpt
designer	design