



# TALES OF ANCIENT EGYPT BIOGRAPHIES

**Learning Objective:**  
**To investigate biographies and their features.**

**Here are two blurbs from a specific genre of book.  
What do you think this genre might be called?  
What do you think the books might be about?**

**This title looks at the life of Ellie Simmonds, the troubles she has overcome and the sacrifices she has made to become the swimming champion that she is today. Learn about her performances at the Beijing Olympics and at London 2012, and how she has made an impact on Paralympic sport.**

Ellie Simmonds (Inspirational Lives) Paperback – 22 Jan 2015 by Clive Gifford

**David Attenborough has dedicated his life to nature. Through his television programmes he has brought amazing wildlife into our homes and helped us to understand more about the world.  
Find out all about his incredible life.**

The Incredible Life of Sir David Attenborough by Sally Morgan

**B  
A  
C  
K**

**N  
E  
X  
T**



The two blurbs have  
come from books  
which are biographies  
of Ellie Simmonds, the  
Paralympic swimmer  
and David  
Attenborough, the  
famous naturalist.

What do you think a  
biography is?



BACK

NEXT

A biography is a non-fiction text written about the life of somebody else. The subject of a biography may be famous, or have made a notable achievement in their life.

An autobiography is a similar non-fiction text which a person has written about their own life. The prefix 'auto' means 'self'. Can you think of any more words with this prefix?



BACK

NEXT



**Who do you think  
might write, or read, a  
biography?**



**B  
A  
C  
K**

**N  
E  
X  
T**

Think, pair, share...

What do you think will be some key features of a biography?



BACK

NEXT



Think, pair, share...

What  
information do  
you think the author  
of a biography will  
need to research  
before they can  
start writing?



BACK

NEXT



# QUEEN VICTORIA

Nicknamed 'The Grandmother of Europe', Queen Victoria is best known for her lengthy rule of the United Kingdom, which lasted 63 years. Under her rule, the British Empire prospered and flourished, becoming the largest empire that the world had ever seen. As Empress, Queen Victoria was head of nearly a quarter of the world's people, with territories in Canada, Egypt, South Africa, India and Australia. Her time as Queen became known as the Victorian era and there were many astonishing advancements in science and technology. The Great Exhibition of 1851 was a display of all the wonderful new inventions that had been created. During her reign, Britain came into the steam age. Railways were built and it became easier than ever to travel over long distances. By the time she died in 1901, she was a symbol of British greatness and was much loved by her people.



## Early Life

Princess Alexandrina Victoria was born at Kensington Palace in London on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1819 and was an only child. She was fifth in line for the throne and very few people ever expected her to become queen. Unfortunately her father, the Duke of Kent, died before her first birthday.

During her childhood, her German mother was incredibly protective of her, making sure that Victoria was supervised at all times. Victoria had little contact with other children but did have a beloved pet dog named Dash. She spoke fluent German and English and had knowledge of French, Italian and Latin languages. By the time she was ten years old, Victoria was next in line for the throne.

## Becoming Queen

When Victoria turned 18 in 1837, she was crowned Queen of the United Kingdom. She was determined to be a good queen and rule the people of Britain and her empire well. Being so young, she took advice from the Prime Minister, Lord Melbourne, who guided her in political matters.

## Family

A few years after she was crowned, in 1840, Victoria married her cousin Albert, a German prince. Her white wedding dress started the popular tradition of a woman wearing white on her wedding day. Victoria and Albert were very fond of one another. They were the first royals to live in Buckingham Palace and had nine children together. Her children ended up marrying into other royal families across Europe, earning Victoria the nickname 'Grandmother of Europe'. When Albert died of typhoid fever in 1861, Victoria was heart-broken. She became reclusive and avoided public appearances. She dressed in black mourning clothes for the rest of her life.

## Death

Queen Victoria ruled the UK from 1837 to her death in 1901 aged 81. At 63 years, her reign is the second longest in British history after Queen Elizabeth II.

# Let's look at an example of a biography.



BACK

NEXT



# QUEEN VICTORIA

Nicknamed 'The Grandmother of Europe', Queen Victoria is best known for her lengthy rule of the United Kingdom, which lasted 63 years. Under her rule, the British Empire prospered and flourished, becoming the largest empire that the world had ever seen. As Empress, Queen Victoria was head of nearly a quarter of the world's people, with territories in Canada, Egypt, South Africa, India and Australia. Her time as Queen became known as the Victorian era and there were many astonishing advancements in science and technology. The Great Exhibition of 1851 was a display of all the wonderful new inventions that had been created. During her reign, Britain came into the steam age. Railways were built and it became easier than ever to travel over long distances. By the time she died in 1901, she was a symbol of British greatness and was much loved by her people.



## Early Life

Princess Alexandrina Victoria was born at Kensington Palace in London on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1819 and was an only child. She was fifth in line for the throne and very few people ever expected her to become queen. Unfortunately her father, the Duke of Kent, died before her first birthday.

During her childhood, her German mother was incredibly protective of her, making sure that Victoria was supervised at all times. Victoria had little contact with other children but did have a beloved pet dog named Dash. She spoke fluent German and English and had knowledge of French, Italian and Latin languages. By the time she was ten years old, Victoria was next in line for the throne.

## Becoming Queen

When Victoria turned 18 in 1837, she was crowned Queen of the United Kingdom. She was determined to be a good queen and rule the people of Britain and her empire well. Being so young, she took advice from the Prime Minister, Lord Melbourne, who guided her in political matters.

## Family

A few years after she was crowned, in 1840, Victoria married her cousin Albert, a German prince. Her white wedding dress started the popular tradition of a woman wearing white on her wedding day. Victoria and Albert were very fond of one another. They were the first royals to live in Buckingham Palace and had nine children together. Her children ended up marrying into other royal families across Europe, earning Victoria the nickname 'Grandmother of Europe'. When Albert died of typhoid fever in 1861, Victoria was heart-broken. She became reclusive and avoided public appearances. She dressed in black mourning clothes for the rest of her life.

## Death

Queen Victoria ruled the UK from 1837 to her death in 1901 aged 81. At 63 years, her reign is the second longest in British history after Queen Elizabeth II.

What key information is included?

What linguistic features can you spot?

What other interesting features can you spot?

What structural features can you spot?

BACK

NEXT



**A biography must include factual information. The author must research their subject thoroughly to make sure their biography is accurate.**



**What other  
'ingredients' would  
you put into a  
successful  
biography?**

**B  
A  
C  
K**

**N  
E  
X  
T**



# Ingredients for a successful biography

B  
A  
C  
K

N  
E  
X  
T



**Pictures**

**Chronological order**

**Adverbials of time**

**Important events**

**Did you think  
of any of  
these  
ingredients?**

**Ingredients  
for a successful  
biography**

**Past tense**

**Specific dates**

**Third person**

**Subheadings**

**B  
A  
C  
K**

**N  
E  
X  
T**







**Let's have a go  
at writing a  
biography!**

**B  
A  
C  
K**

**N  
E  
X  
T**

**Swap biographies with a partner.**

**What have they  
done well?**

**What  
target would  
you give them for  
their biography  
writing?**

**Which  
features do you  
think they have used  
successfully?**

**Which features do  
you think could be  
improved?**