

Unit 13: A historical person

Grade 8

Objective

In this unit, you will describe and talk about a historical person.

A Listening and speaking

LESSON ONE

Activity 1

Describe each picture.



Exercise 1: Answer these questions.

1. What do you know about the woman in the picture?
2. What do you think is the link between the woman and the other pictures?
3. Why do people cut down trees in forests?
4. What should be done to preserve forests?

Listening practice**Activity 2**

Your teacher will read to you a passage About Dr. Wangari Maathai, a famous environmentalist from Kenya. Listen carefully as the passage is being read.

Exercise 2: Copy and complete the table using the information from the story you have just heard.

Place of birth	
Field of study	
Academic achievements	
Award received	
Famous deed	
Challenges faced	

Exercise 3: Answer these questions using the information from the table.

1. Why did the woman become famous?
2. Where is she from?
3. What challenges did she face?

Activity 3

Work in groups. Make a similar table and fill in information about a renowned person from your community.

LESSON TWO

Grammar practice

Past simple and past perfect tense

Read the sentences. Work with a partner to discuss which action comes before the other.

1. Before he went to school, he had been a shepherd.
2. After he had gone to University, he wrote a play.

Activity 1

Your teacher will read a story about a famous person in Ethiopia. Listen carefully and write it in your exercise book. Underline the past perfect and simple past tense.

Exercise 1: Copy the sentences and use the appropriate forms of the verbs in the brackets. Write them in your exercise book.

1. The farmers (learn) how to use a spray pump before they (buy) one.
2. You may (study) Grade 5 after you (complete) Grade 4.
3. Before South Africa (host) the 2010 World Cup, it (build) new stadiums.
4. This place (be) farmland before it (became) a playground.
5. It (believe) that the world (be) flat before Galileo (discover) that it was round.

Exercise 2: Work with a partner.

Make a list of the things you remember doing in elementary school. Order them in sequence and write them in sentences using **before**, **after** and **when**.

Choose one personality from any of the following categories: athletics, publications, entrepreneurship, music, human rights, research or environmental conservation. Write about their contribution to the development of the nation and how they have inspired the people in Ethiopia.

Activity 2

Work in groups of four. Collect various newspapers and magazine articles of different inspiring personalities. Assemble them and mount them beautifully on bright manilla cards. Display them in your classroom.

LESSON THREE

Discussion about famous people

Activity

In groups of five, discuss who you think has made a significant contribution to Ethiopia. You can choose from an athlete, a writer, an investor, a musician or an environmentalist. Ask another group the following questions and let them guess who that person is.

1. When was the person born?
2. Had she/he done something before she/he went to school?
3. Had she/he gone abroad after she/he was popular?
4. How has his/her behaviour inspired the youth?
5. What did the person contribute to Ethiopia?

Exercise: Write a short biography about the person you have discussed in your group.

LESSON FOUR

Imaginary interview of a famous person

Activity

If you were to meet a historical person which one would you choose? Think of what you would do or say to him. What questions would you ask that person? Write your thoughts and imaginations in your exercise book. Exchange books with your partner and compare your ideas. Check each other's grammar and spelling to make sure they are correct.

LESSON FIVE

A guessing game

Activity

Conducting an interview. One of you will role play a famous person. Another person will be the interviewer, who will ask several questions. The interviewee will respond with one word answers: **Yes** or **No**. The rest of the class will try to guess who the interviewee is. Repeat the exercise each time the correct guess is made.

B Reading**LESSON SIX**

Comprehension

Activity 1

What is happening in each picture?



Exercise 1: Answer these questions.

1. Who is the great personality in the picture?
2. Why is he famous?
3. Arrange the pictures in their proper sequence.

Read this passage carefully.**World's great leader**

Nelson Mandela is one of the world's greatest and most **respected** men. He is an **icon** celebrated for having fought against racism in South Africa and becoming South Africa's first black president. His full name is Rolihlahla Dalibhunga Mandela, but many people know him by his clan name 'Madiba'.

He was born on 18th July, 1918 in Qunu, Transkei in South Africa. He is the great grandson of a Tembu King. He does not support racism and wants everybody to live in a free and fair society with equal **opportunities**.

During President PW Botha's regime, Mandela was **jailed** for 18 years on Robben Island prison for his anti-racism activities. He was transferred, to Pollsmoor Prison in Cape Town in April 1984 and in December 1988, he was moved to the Victor Verster Prison. In total, he spent 27 years in prison for opposing the **discrimination** of blacks in South Africa. Although Mandela was imprisoned, he does not believe in **revenge** against the people who oppressed him.

When he got into the presidential office, he led the South Africans for 5 years and peacefully **handed** over power to a new president in May 2004.

While in Zurich, he successfully led South Africa's bid to host the 2010 FIFA World Cup, the biggest international event ever **hosted** in his country and on the African continent. Other achievements have been his campaigns to fight against HIV/AIDS.

Exercise 2: Answer these questions.

1. Mandela's full name is
A. Nelson Mandela
B. Madiba
C. Tembu king
D. Rolihlahla Dalibhunga Mandela

2. Which of the following is the best reason for regarding Mandela as one of the world's greatest leaders?
 - A. He fought against racism in South Africa.
 - B. He was imprisoned for 27 years.
 - C. He wants everybody to live in a free and fair society .
 - D. His people in South Africa like him.

3. Mandela was imprisoned because _____
 - A. he was greedy for power and opposed the White government in South Africa.
 - B. he opposed the discriminatory policies in South Africa.
 - C. he was going to be a Tembu King.
 - D. he wanted to overthrow the government in South Africa.

4. Which of the following progression shows the prison transfers of Mandela.
 - A. Victor Verster, Robben Island Prison, Pollsmoor Prison in Cape town.
 - B. Robben Island prison, Victor Verster Prison, Pollsmoor Prison.
 - C. Poolsmoor prision, Victor Verster Prison, Robben Island Prison.
 - D. Robben Island Prison, Pollsmoor Prison, Victor Verster Prison.

5. Mandela spent a total of _____ years in prison.
 - A. eighteen
 - B. five
 - C. twenty seven
 - D. from 1984 to 1988

Vocabulary practice

Exercise 3: Find words in the passage which mean the same as those below and form sentences.

passed, vengeance, isolation, imprisoned,
chances, recognised, staged

C Writing

LESSON SEVEN

Summary

Exercise: Read the passage again. Identify the main points in each paragraph. Write a summary of not more than 100 words.

1. Who he was.
2. When he was born.
3. Why he was imprisoned.
4. His achievements.
5. His impact on the world.

Activity

With a partner, study the following information about a great scientist, Engineer Kitaw Ejagu. Use the information to write a brief biography.

Born	February 25 th , 1945 in Bonga	
Studied	High School	Miazia 27 th High School in Jimma
	Diploma	Bahar Dar Polytechnics Institute
	Scholarship	Japan – Hiroshima University of Engineering Osaka University – Economics United States – Nothrop University - MBA
Work experience	National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Rockwell International Boeing company	

LESSON EIGHT

Gaps fill-in exercise

Exercise 1: Read the following paragraph about Engineer Kitaw Ejagu and complete the blank spaces with the correct form of the words given.

attend be bear go in study line work win die was

Engineer Kitaw Ejagu was 1 on February 25th, 1948 2 Bonga. He 3 high school in Jimma before he 4 to Bahir Dar Polytechnic Institute. While he 5 in Bahir Dar, he 6 Mechanical Engineering. After he 7 a scholarship from the Japanese overseas Technical Association. Before he 8 in 2006, he 9 in the United States.

Exercise 2: Write a short biography of any of your parents or relative. Use the table to help you.

Place and date of birth	
Marital status	
Education background	
Profession	
Work experience	
Scholarships	
Achievements	
Hobbies and interests	

LESSON NINE**Comprehension**

Exercise: Below is a story about Aferwork Tekle, a famous artist. The paragraphs are jumbled. Put them in logical order. Work in groups of four. Each person will copy a paragraph. Afterwards, write them in their correct order on a sheet of paper.

Sent to England in 1947 to do mining engineering, his artistic talent was soon perceived. He was accepted at the Central School of Arts and Crafts in London and later went to the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of London, the famous “slade”. While studying in England he made several artistic pilgrimages to the continent of Europe.

Afework Tekle, Ethiopia’s leading artist, was born on October 22nd, 1932 to W/ro Felekech Yematawork and Ato Tekle Moamo in the old historic city of Ankober in Shoa Province, Ethiopia. As a school boy in the then recently liberated Ethiopia, Aferwork revealed an intense artistic interest in life around him. He kept himself busy with a pencil or pen sketching and drawing, even during Chemistry, Mathematics or History classes.

Soon after his exhibition, he left Ethiopia for a study tour in Italy, France, Spain, Portugal and Greece. In addition to these countries, he carried out various studies in England. He also made a special study of the Ethiopian illustrated manuscripts in the British library, the Bibiliotheque Nationale in Paris and Vatican Library, thereby gaining a deeper knowledge of his own artistic heritage.

After completion of his studies, he returned to Addis Ababa where he held a one man exhibition at the Municipality Hall in 1954. It was the first significant exhibition of post-war Ethiopia. After extensive study, Aferwork, a now well equipped artist, returned with full confidence to his native land, received many awards and was recognised for the “Most Honorable World Lauraate Maitre Artiste.”

LESSON TEN**Composition**

Exercise: Study the facts about Mamo Wolde's life and write a paragraph about his biography in your exercise book. Share your writing with your friends.

Mamo Wolde

- Born : June 12th 1932
Won : Marathon 1968 Summer Olympics
Moved : to Addis Ababa in 1951
Placed : fourth in 10,000m at 1964 summer Olympics
Won : Bronze medal at the age of 40
Died : in 2002
Won : Marathon 1973 in all Africa games

LESSON ELEVEN**Revision exercises**

Exercise 1: Complete the following sentences using the words in the box.

famous popular successful

1. Haile Gebresilasie is a _____ athlete.
2. Ali Bira is a _____ singer.
3. Professor Aklilu Lemma was a _____ researcher.

Exercise 2: Complete the sentences below using the appropriate past simple and past perfect tense of the verbs in the brackets.

1. Addis Ababa (be) a village before it (become) a capital city.
2. Eshamu (have) a child when she (go) to school.
3. When I (start) school my sister (be) in the University.
4. Mebreku (build) a house before Jemberu (buy) a car.
5. My father (plant) eucalyptus trees when he (fence) our garden.
6. Hirut (have) chicken. She (use) to sell eggs in the market.
7. Life during the time of Italian invasion (be) difficult for Ethiopia.
8. We (travel) for about ten hours before we (arrive) at the park.

9. She (inform) me that I (break) the rule.
10. When we (complete) unit twelve, we (begin) unit thirteen.

Activity

Discuss homonid 'Lucy' and write notes about her. Compare your notes with your partner's. List the facts, myths and opinions made by people about 'Lucy'.

Read the biography about Mr. Kofi Annan and summarise it in a table.

The former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan was born in Kumasi, Ghana on 8th April 1938. He was the seventh Secretary-General and served two terms starting from 1st January 1997 to 1st January 2007.

Mr. Annan is known for the reforms he brought about in the functioning of the United Nations. His priorities included:

- (a) Strengthening the operations carried out in the areas of security and peace-keeping.
- (b) Promoting the virtues of equality, human dignity and tolerance.
- (c) To reinstate people's faith in the United Nations, by forging ties with new partners in economic and cultural areas.

Kofi Annan influenced world politics positively and tried to resolve the conflicts between different nations peacefully. During the invasion of Iraq in 2003, he did not permit the US and UK to go ahead without the consent of the United Nations. The transfer of power from African Union peacekeeping mission to United Nations took place peacefully in Sudan; Mr. Annan played a vital role in this process of peaceful transition.

Addressing the HIV/AIDS pandemic was at the top in his priority list. For the same reason, he proposed to set up a 'Global AIDS and Health Fund'. This was an attempt to increase funding to fight against AIDS. In collaboration with a few Arab and Muslim nations he tried to work in the sector of women empowerment. On the 10th of December 2001, Kofi Annan was given the Nobel Peace Prize.

In his farewell address on 31st December 2006, Mr. Annan shared his views regarding the unjust world economic policies, violence in Middle East and Africa and the issue of human rights.

(Source: Famous people/Internet)