

* reading HW
DUE

Fascinating People



Name _____

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Steven Spielberg

Steven Spielberg was born in December 1947. He was very imaginative as a young child. He liked dressing up in costumes and acting in plays he made up. In his teens, he used his dad's movie camera to make movies with friends. He even talked a local airport into letting him film scenes inside a real fighter plane. He won a junior film festival with a film he made in the Arizona desert using special effects. Spielberg was really a self-taught director. He submitted some of his films to Universal Studios. He dropped out of college because he was offered work at that studio. (He did finish college much later at California State University, Long Beach).

Spielberg's first film was called *Duel*. His first major success was *Jaws*, a scary movie about sharks. It made him popular and led to other successes. These included four *Indiana Jones* movies. They are filled with the adventures of a collector of ancient treasures.

Another movie directed by Spielberg is *Jurassic Park*. It's about a dinosaur park. And *E.T.* tells the story of a creature from another world visiting earth.

Spielberg has also made some serious movies. *Schindler's List* tells the true story of one man's efforts to save Jews from the death camps during World War II. *Saving Private Ryan* is a story of a few soldiers trying to survive during that war. *The Color Purple* is a serious movie about the lives of African Americans.

In 1994, he joined with friends to start his own movie studio. It is called Dreamworks. In the same year, Spielberg provided money to record the stories of **survivors** of the death camps. He already has thousands of **oral** accounts recorded on videotapes.

What kind of movie do you hope Spielberg directs next—a drama, a comedy, or a romance?

Check Your Understanding

- Which film did *not* deal with past periods of history?
 - Saving Private Ryan*
 - Jurassic Park*
 - Schindler's List*
 - E.T.*
- Which of the following is based on a true story?
 - Schindler's List*
 - E.T.*
 - Saving Private Ryan*
 - Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*
- From the context of the passage, what is the meaning of **oral**?
 - written
 - used for punishment
 - spoken aloud
 - not true
- From the context of the passage, which of the following has the same meaning as **survivors**?
 - people who are killed in an event
 - leaders of people
 - people who live through a terrible event
 - lucky people



Warm-Up

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Name _____

Galileo Galilei

Galileo was born about 350 years ago in Italy. More than any other scientist, he deserves to be considered the father of modern science. He was different from teachers before him and many in his own time. He tested each of his ideas with experiments and did very careful observations of the results. Other famous experts in science had based their opinions on ideas that had been stated for hundreds of years. Usually, the ideas had not been proven.

For example, Galileo was certain that light objects and heavy objects fall at the same speed. He thought an experiment would prove his belief. He tested his idea by dropping objects of different weights from a tower. He proved his idea. However, even that didn't convince some of his critics. He was also able to describe the speed of these falling objects in math terms. The use of math to describe

scientific ideas was a major leap forward in science. He also described some laws of motion. He did major experiments with swinging pendulums, as well.

Galileo designed and built a telescope powerful enough to see the mountains and craters of the moon. He was able to see the first four moons of Jupiter. In his honor, they are called the Galilean moons. He was among the first to believe that Earth was not the center of the universe. He believed that the planets in the solar system revolved around the sun.

Galileo's ideas were advanced for his time. In many ways, he was too advanced to be appreciated, but now we appreciate him. Don't you wonder what ideas he would test if he were alive today?

Check Your Understanding

- What are the Galilean moons?
 - four moons around Saturn
 - four moons of Jupiter first seen by Galileo
 - four moons near the Sun
 - four moons around Uranus first seen by Galileo
- What does the passage suggest was believed by many other scientists of Galileo's time?
 - Heavy objects fall faster than light objects.
 - All planets and the sun revolve around Earth.
 - Scientists should believe what earlier scientists had written.
 - all of the above
- Which of the following actions was an important scientific advance used by Galileo?
 - discovering planets in the solar system
 - inventing the first telescope
 - looking at the moon
 - expressing scientific observations with mathematical formulas
- What can you infer about the influence of Galileo on scientists who succeeded him?
 - They named the four moons of Jupiter after him because they respected his work.
 - They ignored his efforts after he died.
 - They continued his experiments immediately.
 - They never used his telescope again.