

## Famous People

Approach: Station

Level: Year 8

Resources: Oxford Children's Pocket Book of Knowledge (1992); timer — set by teacher to 9 minutes.

### Questions/instructions

You have 9 minutes for this task — start the timer now.

A new set of cards is being made for a breakfast cereal. There are 5 cards with people's names and pictures on them. On each card write down two things:

1. The year the person was born.
2. Something for which the person is famous.

Use the Oxford Children's Pocket Book of Knowledge to help you.



### Gandhi, Mohandas

Mohandas Gandhi was born in India in 1869. He became a lawyer and worked in South Africa for 21 years.

Back in India he led the National Congress party in a non-violent campaign against British rule. He

was sent to prison three times for his beliefs and actions.

When India and Pakistan became independent in 1947, Gandhi worked for peace between Hindus and Muslims. He was assassinated by a gunman in 1948.



### Pasteur, Louis

The great scientist Louis Pasteur (1822-1895) discovered that bacteria cause disease. He showed that living organisms, which we now call bacteria or 'germs', carry disease from one person, or animal, to another. He also made a life-saving vaccine for treating and preventing rabies.

In 1856 the French wine industry asked Pasteur to find out why so much of its wine was turning sour. He showed that this was caused by a yeast which could be killed by heat. This heating process, called 'pasteurization', is used today to make milk safe to drink.



### Magellan, Ferdinand

Ferdinand Magellan, born in 1480, wanted to find a sea route round South America to the east.

In 1519 he set out with five ships and 268 men. He had to face mutiny and terrible weather before he reached the Pacific Ocean. He was killed in 1521 on the return journey. Magellan's was the first expedition to sail round the world, and although he did not live to see the voyage completed it provided the first proof that the Earth is round. Only one ship returned to Spain, with a crew of just seventeen men.



**Mohandas Gandhi**

Year of birth:  
Gandhi is famous for:



**Louis Pasteur**

Year of birth:  
Pasteur is famous for:



**Ferdinand Magellan**

Year of birth:  
Magellan is famous for:



**Marie Curie**

Year of birth:  
Curie is famous for:



**Galileo Galilei**

Year of birth:  
Galileo is famous for:

% responses

18

Gandhi: year  
fame

80

64

Pasteur: year  
fame

80

46

Magellan: year  
fame

80

70

Curie: year  
fame

71

69

Galileo: year  
fame

72

58

### Commentary

Year 8 students had high levels of success in finding the year of birth. For some of the people looked up, they were less successful in distinguishing the source of their fame from less important details (eg. Gandhi was a lawyer).