



Frida Kahlo biography

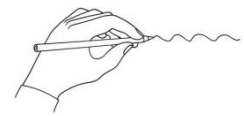
Reading practice

Level 3

Do you know about Frida Kahlo, the famous Mexican artist? Practise your reading in English with this biography.



Preparation



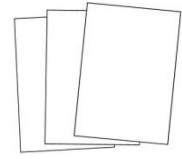
Match the words with the definitions.

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|
| polio | → | a very serious illness that can affect the muscles |
| damaged | | to return to good health after being ill |
| to suffer | | to feel pain |
| to recover | | a big picture painted on a wall |
| a self-portrait | | to have an effect on |
| a mural | | hurt or partly broken |
| folk art | | traditional art created by people of a particular culture |
| to influence | | a picture you make of yourself |
| a legacy | | intended for a particular purpose |
| dedicated | | something a person leaves behind after dying |



Reading text

Read the biography.



Frida Kahlo

Early life

Frida Kahlo was a Mexican artist. Her full name was Magdalena Carmen Frida Kahlo y Calderón. She was born in Coyoacán, near Mexico City, in 1907. Frida grew up in a bright blue house called La Casa Azul with her parents and sisters. When she was six years old she became ill with polio and her leg was permanently damaged.

Starting to paint

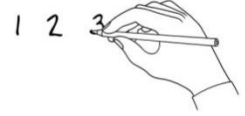
Frida spent a lot of her life in and out of hospitals. She had many health problems and she suffered a lot of pain. When she was eighteen, she was in a bus accident. She broke lots of bones and she spent many months recovering. It was at this time that Frida started to paint. Many of her paintings from this time are self-portraits that show her pain and suffering.

Married life and career

In 1929 Frida married Diego Rivera, a Mexican artist who was famous for painting huge murals on walls. Both artists continued their work and became successful at home and abroad. After they got married, Frida started to wear traditional Mexican clothes and became interested in Mexican folk art. This influenced her paintings, which are very bright and colourful, with an original style that is very personal to Frida. However, they continued to show the pain and sadness which she experienced during her life.

Death and legacy

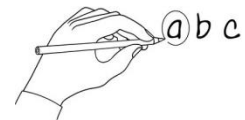
Frida Kahlo died on 13 July 1954, after suffering more and more health problems. Her husband died three years later. Today Frida and Diego's home, La Casa Azul, is a very popular museum, dedicated to Frida's life and work. It displays paintings by Frida and Diego, as well as many objects from their life, to help tell the story of one of the most important artists in the twentieth century.



1. What's the order?

Put the sentences in order.

	Frida started painting self-portraits.
	Frida became interested in folk art.
1	Frida grew up in a blue house.
	Frida died of an illness.
	Frida had an accident on a bus.
	Frida's husband Diego died.
	Frida got married to Diego Rivera.
	Frida became ill with polio.



2. True or false?

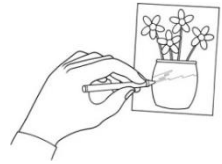
Circle true or false for these sentences.

a.	Frida was born near Mexico City.	<u>true</u>	false
b.	Frida recovered quickly after her bus accident.	true	false
c.	Lots of Frida's paintings show her unhappiness.	true	false
d.	Frida's husband was an artist too.	true	false
e.	After getting married, Frida stopped painting.	true	false
f.	Frida's paintings are full of colour.	true	false
g.	Frida was healthy and strong.	true	false
h.	The place where Frida grew up is now a school.	true	false



Write and draw!

Who are your favourite artists? Draw a picture and write about them!



A large rectangular area for drawing and writing, containing several horizontal dotted lines for text.