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**Childhoods of Famous People**



# Childhoods of Famous People

Albatros



# Throngs of People Will Bow Down before My Beauty and Power

I live in a famous ancient realm in North Africa. Everyone believes I'll achieve quite a lot one day. I think so, too, which is why I try to learn as much as I possibly can. Our family is respected and rich, meaning that I can study whatever strikes my fancy. I'd love to go to school, but that's for boys only. Girls have to study at home.



## The Nile River

When I'm a good girl and the weather is nice, I'm allowed to go on a boat ride on the Nile. The river is fascinating to me. It's long and huge, floods regularly and fertilizes our fields. It's also a good place to catch fish and travel, especially for large, trade, and cargo ships.

Do you know already which girl this might be?



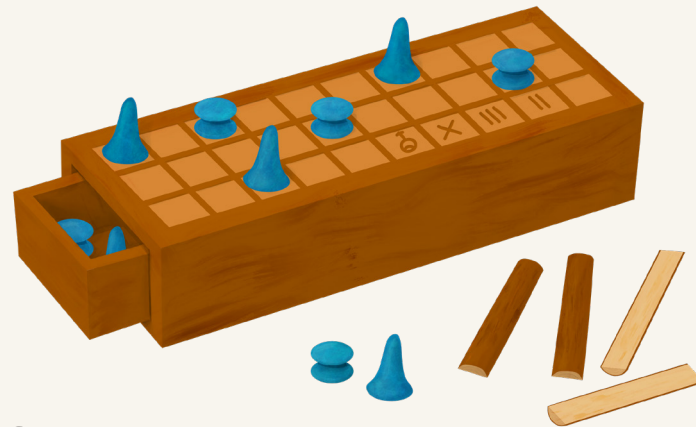
## Mehen

When I'm not studying or helping anyone with anything, I enjoy playing games. Take mehen, for example—that one's really fun! It looks like a snake about to have a hissing fit, but in fact it's just squares arranged in a spiral. Using red and white marbles, you move your pieces, shaped like tiny lions, from one square to the next.



## Wooden cat

I love my beautiful wooden toys. They're all shaped like animals and I'm proud of having them because they can move! I must be careful with them since they're very expensive. I also own a couple of dolls that were carved from wood, and clay figurines.



## Senet

I'm not the only one who likes to play. The adults around me also have their favorite games. For example, they spend a lot of time playing senet. To play senet, you need a rectangle board with 33 squares, black and white pieces, and small sticks for throwing. A single game can take up a lot of time. The game's said to resemble the voyage to the afterlife—our culture is convinced that life goes on after death. We've written the Book of the Dead about it and build wonderful structures for the deceased.

Do you know where I'm from?



I'm  
Nefertiti!



14<sup>th</sup> century BC

Nefertiti was a powerful Egyptian queen who lived in the 14th century BC. Parts of her life are shrouded in mystery. Researchers still can't agree on which family she came from. She may have been a princess, but it's more likely that her father was a senior official at the pharaoh's court. Once Nefertiti grew up, she married a pharaoh—Akhenaten. After his death, it was Nefertiti who ruled Egypt.

## What was Nefertiti like?

She's said to have been wise, educated, and extremely beautiful. Her full name was Neferneferuaten Nefertiti, meaning "The Beautiful Woman Has Come." You can judge her appearance for yourself by looking at her bust, which is believed to be an accurate representation of her gorgeous face. She was very proud of her beauty, too, and took good care of herself. She loved ornaments made from feathers, owned many wigs, and wrapped fine fabrics infused with fragrant oils around her neck.



## What was her realm like?

The Egyptian realm was one of the most important and ancient civilizations in the world, established in approximately 3000 BC in Africa, specifically in the rich, fertile valley of the Lower Nile. Its rulers were called pharaohs and were considered living gods. Their subjects built wonderful structures for them to make sure they'd lack nothing in the afterlife. These buildings were called pyramids.





## Sports

Sometimes, one needs to have a good stretch and run around a bit. My girlfriends and I like to throw a ball outside, showing off our agility. Boys don't really enjoy that. They prefer wrestling, playing tug-of-war, or learning different ways of hunting and throwing spears or stones. One day when they're fighting great battles, this will all come in handy.



## Hieroglyphics

I'm envious of everyone who has nice handwriting. Our writing system consists of small pictures called hieroglyphics. It's hard to learn them, which is why scribes who've mastered them are very respected and powerful. They receive their education at temple schools where they practice writing on clay boards with a stucco coating. Once they're good enough, they switch to papyrus, which is very expensive and only for really important things: contracts, legal measures, accounts, and the tidings from the pharaoh—that's the title of our ruler.



What do you think, who am I?



5 6



I'm even able to recognize some medicinal herbs just by their smell, such as Fenugreek or chamomile.

## Observation

Observing the nature around me is the best way to learn. There are so many interesting things going on! When playing outside, I also pay attention to my body and how it works. If I climb a tree, my heart starts beating faster, my breath quickens, and my forehead breaks out in salty sweat.

What do you think, which field will I pursue in adulthood?



## I Trust in the Healing Power of Nature

I was born on the Greek isle of Kos to a very educated family. My grandpa and dad are both renowned healers. One day, I too would like to take care of the sick and know how to help them. So far, my parents have taught me which herbs can be used for healing. The pain-relieving power of herbs is pretty miraculous!

## Causes of illness

People around me believe that if you fall sick, you're being punished by the gods. Since I like to think about stuff, I don't really believe this—all illnesses must have a cause. One day, I'll prove to everybody that you don't cure people by praying and repelling evil spirits.



## Playing bones

When my friends and I get together, we like playing with smoothened animal bones. Some of them are decorated with ornaments, but we prefer those with values marked on them as those allow us to compete—whoever gets the highest value by throwing the bone, wins. The bones are small and can be played anywhere.

Do you know which little boy used to play with bones and then went on to treat bones and other parts of the human body in adulthood?



## I'm Hippocrates!



460 - 370 BC

Hippocrates was the most famous physician of the antiquity. He was born around 460 BC on a Greek island of Kos to a physician and teacher Heraclides. The work of Hippocrates was based on his observation of nature. He rejected the idea that sickness was caused by divine whims, and instead tried to find rational reasons for it. He was a physician and also taught medicine, going on to found his own medical school. In collaboration with his students, he wrote *Hippocratic Corpus*.

## The time of Hippocrates

Ancient, or rather classical Greece—the time and home of Hippocrates—is now called “the cradle of European civilisation.” This period saw the formation of many new fields influenced by other nations, including the development of science, to which Hippocrates contributed. Ancient architecture and arts inspired many people, and theater, the art of public speaking, and politics thrived.



## Hippocratic oath

The Hippocratic oath is a text physicians recite after graduation, undertaking to always work to the benefit of their patients, to the best of their ability and judgement, doing no harm.

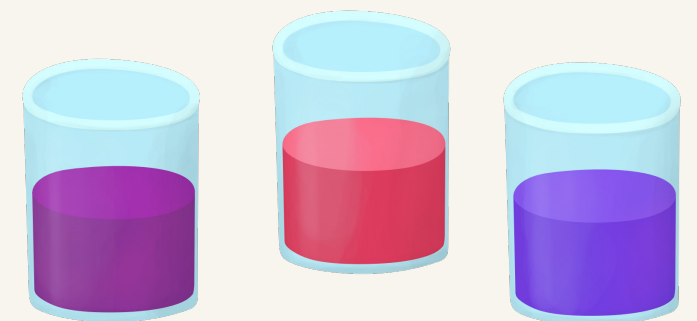




## Acidic and alkaline

After my mom died, I became even more absorbed in studying and experimenting. Once, I did an experiment to learn which substances were acidic and which were alkaline. All I needed to do was boil some red cabbage and pour different solutions into the stock. Acid, or rather lemon juice, turns the liquid red, while soap water turns it blue.

Do you know which woman had her husband assist with her experiments?

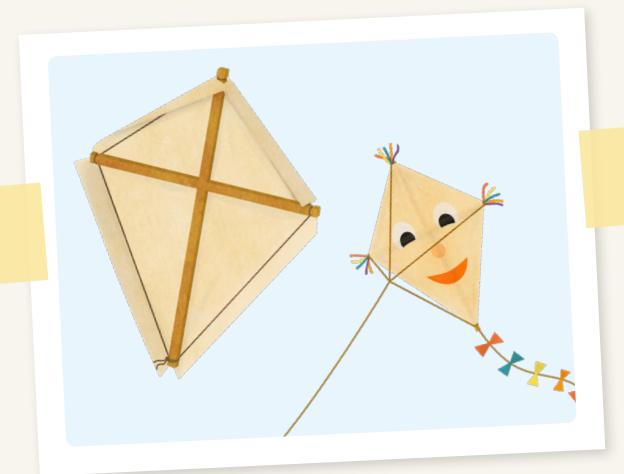
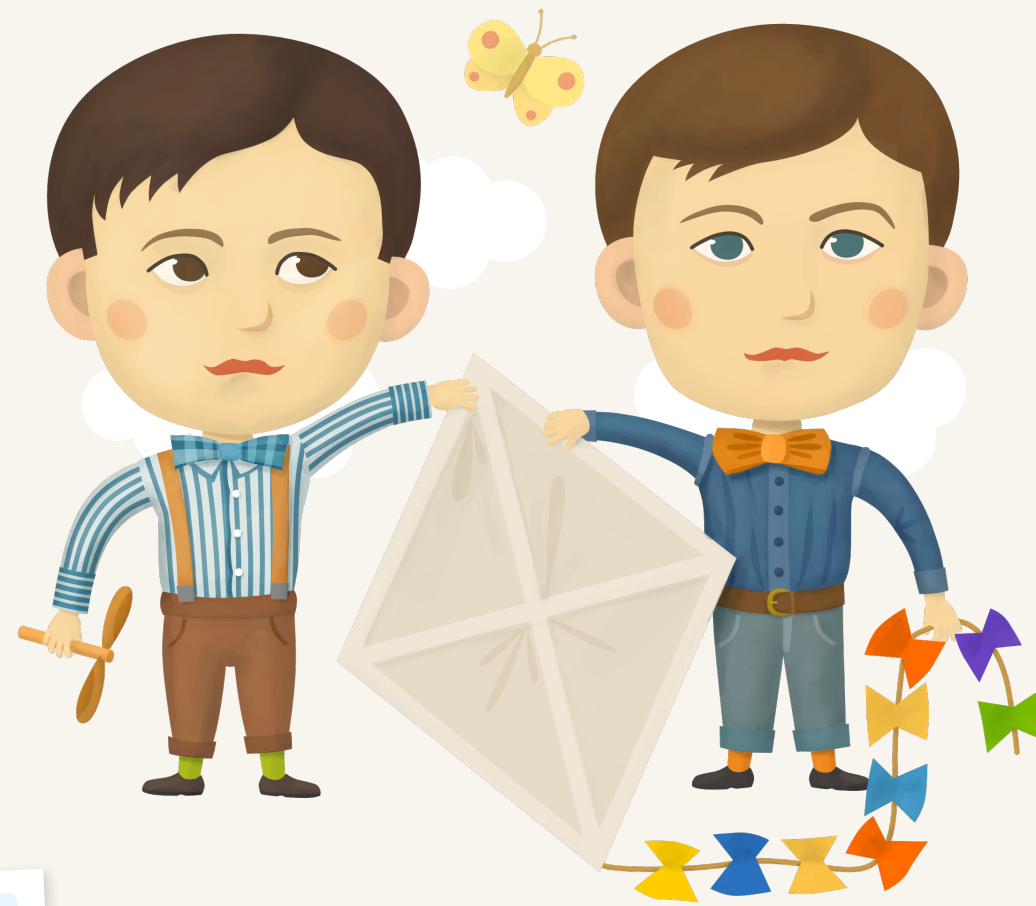


What do you think, who am I?



## Let's Take Flight

Adults doubt it's possible to create a machine heavier than air that could take flight, saying only hot-air balloons can fly. But we are skeptical. My brother and I are very interested in this. We must have read every book and encyclopedia on flying in existence!



### Let's tune up this kite

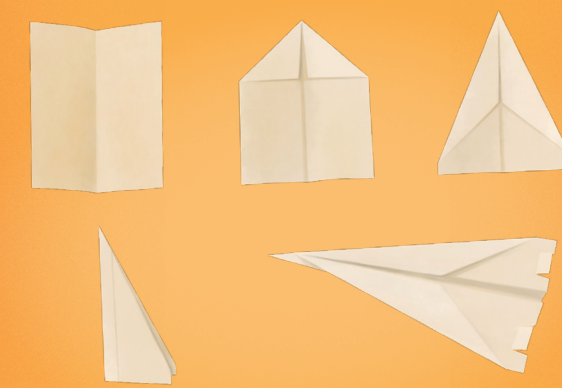
We're thorough designers. When building a kite, we always try many different versions and observe the influence the shape or material have on the qualities of flight. We've found out that the tail isn't there just to look pretty, but that it helps to stabilize the kite.

The brothers used this knowledge to build an unpowered aircraft—a glider. Do you now know what Wilbur and Orville's last name was?



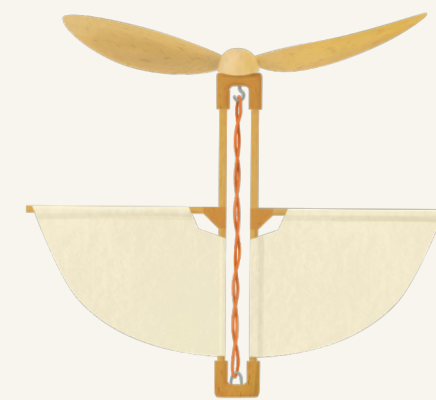
### Sail boat

Wind doesn't just keep a kite in the air, but also a boat on water! My younger brother Orville is very crafty—he can make a great little boat out of a piece of tree bark in no time and decorate it with beautiful ornaments. He's interested in engraving wood and his work is very well done.



### Paper airplane

Apart from kites, Orville also builds other flying models. His crafts glide in the air beautifully. Those made out of paper are the simplest ones. Making a paper airplane takes no time whatsoever, and then you can hold a race to see which plane flies the furthest.



### Let's fly

Dad brought us a beautiful toy from his business trip—a flying device shaped like a dragonfly, powered by a twisted rubber string. My brother and I sometimes fight each other for it. Both of us would love to create a huge machine which could take flight with people aboard.

Do you know which designers got their wish and made the very first powered airplane in the world?



We're the Wright brothers!

Orville

Wilbur



Orville 1871 - 1948  
Wilbur 1867 - 1912

Orville and Wilbur Wright are considered to be the pioneers of aviation. In the USA, they first developed an unpowered glider. Later, they constructed a wooden biplane covered in cloth, and finally took flight in the very first powered aircraft. The two also founded a company that produced airplanes, called The Wright Company.

### The first flight

In 1903 in North Carolina, USA, Orville Wright flew a powered airplane heavier than air for the very first time in history. The plane stayed in the air for 12 seconds in total and covered 37 meters. The same day, Wilbur flew 300 meters in the exact same aircraft.



### History of aviation

In 1783, the very first hot-air balloon flight took place, orchestrated by the Montgolfier brothers. In 1852, Henri Giffard presented the world with the very first dirigible. More than one hundred years later, the Wright brothers managed to wrench an aircraft from the ground, even though it was heavier than air. In 1909, Louis Blériot flew across the English Channel, and in 1927, Charles Lindbergh made it across the Atlantic Ocean. Over the next 20 years, planes broke the sound barrier.





## Rehabilitation

When I was seven, I contracted polio. Since then, I've been limping on my right leg—it's shorter than the left one, you see. So I must exercise the muscles in my lower extremities. Swimming is wonderful for that. Dad also has me ride a bike, play football, and even box!



## Camera

My dad came to Mexico as a young man. He often tells me about what it was like to leave Germany, especially when we spend time together in his photographic studio. He works as a professional photographer and has taught me a lot of things. He takes many pictures of me. One day, they'll be beautiful mementos of my childhood.



What do you think. who am I?



## I'll Write Songs About My Life

I had a truly adventurous childhood. Dad had no time for me and mom was worried that she wouldn't be able to raise me on her own. I lived with my relatives, but that wasn't anything to write home about either. My grandma from my mother's side neglected me, didn't give me enough to eat, and even told me I was born in the streets!

Do you know which girl was given a nickname that means "sparrow" in English?



I don't have an easy childhood, but I'll certainly step onto world-famous stages.

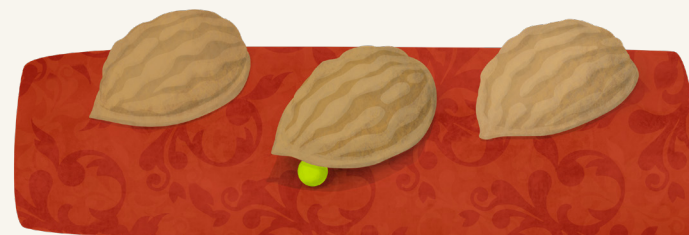
## Pétanque

The social game of pétanque originated in France, my home country. I love it because you can play it with anyone—adults, children, even old people who don't want to just sit around in the park. There's nothing to it! Simply throw your boule as close as possible to a little wooden target ball, called a jack.



## Music

The barrel-organ is my favorite instrument. One organ-grinder even let me turn the handle! As soon as I turned it for the first time, the box started playing beautiful music. Organ-grinders have a similar job description to my dad and me—they mostly stay outside, entertain people, and wait for a reward to arrive in the form of spare change.



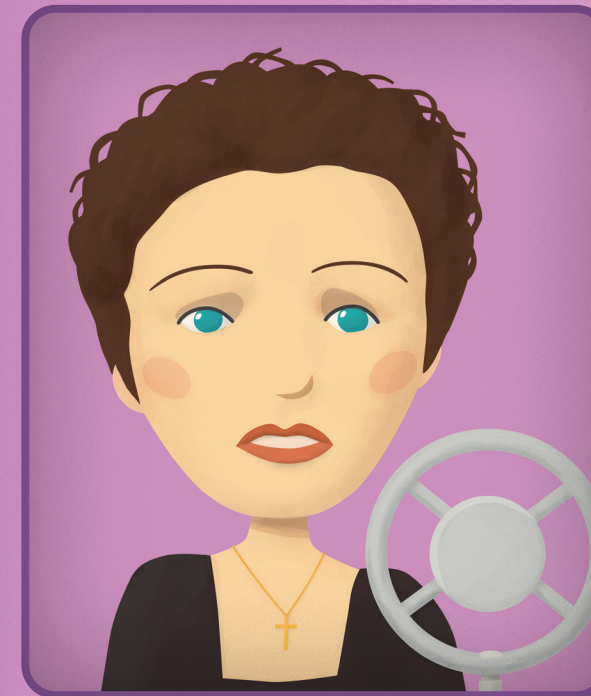
## Shell game

I was blind between the ages of three and seven. Fortunately, now my eyes are okay again and I can play the shell game with boys. You hide a small ball under one of the shells and then shuffle all three shells. You need to pay close attention to guess correctly where the ball is hidden. It's not rare for me to realize the boys are cheating!

This woman didn't have a happy childhood. She was even blind for a few years. Do you know her name?



## I'm Édith Piaf!



1915 - 1963

Édith Piaf was a French singer, born in the suburbs of Paris. She had a difficult childhood, living by turns with her relatives and father, with whom she trouped all over France. Her singing career started when she was singing to people in the streets.

That's where a music club owner later discovered her. He gave her the nickname "sparrow," probably because of her small stature, and recommended that she wear a black dress while performing. The dress went on to become her signature garment.

Her songs were about love and joy, but also about her hardships—both her little daughter and partner died, and she went through a string of failed relationships.

## Songs

Édith became popular during WWII and after. She toured all over Europe, the USA, and South America. Her biggest hits are *Non, je ne regrette rien*, *Mon Dieu* and *Padam...Padam...*



## Chanson

Ever since the Middle Ages, the term "chanson" had referred to simple songs with merry, sometimes even satirical lyrics. Its modern form was born on the stages of French vaudevilles. The style of lyrics changed as well—they began resembling elaborate poems. Apart from Édith Piaf, Charles Aznavour, Jacques Brel, and Gilbert Bécaud were also chanson singers.







Do you think you can identify some famous and well-known people based on descriptions of their childhoods? If so, open this book and try it.

Discover the  
childhoods of  
**25** famous  
people

There are 25 celebrities waiting for you to discover them. Rulers, inventors, scientists, musicians and many others lead you through their childhoods and show you how life was back then, what they liked to play with, and what their interests were—but they will keep their names to themselves. Each character gives clues to help you figure out who they are. Then you can lift the flap to find out whether you guessed correctly.

What's that? Can you hear that?  
That must be all your new friends greeting you!



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