

Biography Activities

Activities courtesy of *Newsday in Education* • Long Island, New York

MATH

Create math problems using the dates provided.

Given the birth date and date (if deceased) of death, how old was the person when he/she died?

How old is/would this person be today?

How old was this person when they achieved their first accomplishment?

Create math problems from an obituary in today's paper.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Summarize the text information into one paragraph. Remember to include the important events.

List accomplishments in priority order with the most important first. Defend your list of accomplishments by explaining why you put them in that order.

Write a new caption for the picture provided.

Pretend there is not enough space provided for this article. Make it shorter by taking out at least 10 words without eliminating any of the story's facts.

Write down unfamiliar words. Use a dictionary to find the definitions. Create a word game using the words and definitions. Share your word game with a classmate.

Write a short biography of the person in the first person. Example: I was born in 1953. Use your first-person biography to create "Who am I?" riddles.

Create a biography on a Long Islander mentioned in today's paper.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Create a timeline using the dates provided. Try a software program like Tom Snyder's Timeliner.

Create a chart and categorize each person as Inventor, Politician, Scientists, Artist, etc. Add Long Islanders mentioned in today's paper to your list.

Use a graphic organizer such as Inspiration to chart a person's accomplishments.

Think of someone from Long Island whom you would like to interview. Make a list of 8-10 questions you would ask.

Compare the lifestyle of the person being profiled to your own lifestyle. Consider the physical environment, economic situation, family life, etc.

RESEARCH

Locate the biographical dictionary in your school library.

In the reference section of the library, browse through a biography series such as Biography Today.

Research who else was famous during the same time in the United States and in the world.

At the library, sign out a biography book on one of the people mentioned, if available.

BULLETIN BOARD

Create a Long Island Stars bulletin board.

Draw a star for each person.

In the center of each star, write the person's name.

On each point of the star, write an accomplishment, the date of birth, date of death, etc.

Add people currently in the newspaper to your bulletin board.

*These activities are based on materials posted daily at www.newsday.com.
Under Special Newsday Programs, click on Names of New York or Names of Long Island.*