

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Alfred Nobel

1 Guess

How much do you know about Alfred Nobel? Choose a word to complete these sentences. If you don't know the answer, guess.

- Alfred Nobel was ...
Swedish Russian Norwegian
- He died more than ...
50 years ago 100 years ago
150 years ago
- The Nobel Prize ...
is named after him is not named after him

While reading

2 Comprehension

Read until you get to 'which were very basic at that time', just after the picture of dynamite on page 11. Find words in the story to complete these sentences.

- Nobel's father had to move first to Finland and then to Russia because he lost all his
_____.
- The family engineering company made all kinds of
_____.
- The Nobel boys learned to speak
_____ languages.
- Nobel's two favourite school subjects were
_____ and
_____.
- While he was studying in France and the USA, Nobel became interested in _____.
- A terrible explosion at the family factory
_____ Nobel's brother, Emil.
- Nobel invented a new explosive which he called
_____.

3 Comprehension

Read to the end of the story. Choose the correct word to complete these sentences.

- People in England *believed* / *didn't believe* that nitroglycerin was safe.
- Nobel's next invention was very good for *breaking up small areas of rock* / *blowing up large cliffs*.
- Bertha *fell in love with Alfred* / *was already in love with Arthur von Suttner*.
- A newspaper in Paris said that *Alfred* / *Alfred's brother Ludvig* had died.
- Nobel decided to set up the Nobel Prizes *the day after* / *seven years after* he saw the headline.
- Nobel *enjoyed the day that* / *died before* the first Nobel Prizes were awarded.

4 Comprehension and writing

Answer these questions in sentences.

- Why did the Nobel family move to Russia?

- What kind of education did Nobel and his brothers receive?

- What terrible thing happened one day in 1864?

- How did Nobel become so rich?

- Why did Nobel decide to re-think his life when he was 55 years old?

After reading

5 Language

Read each quote. Look in the timeline for the correct date and verb to complete each sentence. Put the verb in the passive form.

award create destroy employ kill report ~~teach~~

Example:

"I'm in France learning from a top professor!"
In 1850, Nobel was taught by the French chemist Professor Pelouze.

- "Emil is dead."
In _____, Emil
_____ in an explosion.
- "Another explosion! I have no factory!"
In _____, Nobel's factory
_____ by an explosion.
- "I love Bertha!"
In _____, Bertha Kinsky
_____ by Nobel as a secretary.
- "I'm not dead!"
In _____, Nobel's death
_____ by a Paris newspaper.
- "They're for the best work in five areas."
In _____, five prizes
_____ by Nobel.
- "Alfred isn't here, but this is what he dreamed of."
In _____, the first Nobel Prizes
_____.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Alfred Nobel

6 Vocabulary

Find meanings for these words at www.collinsdictionary.com/cobuild. Write a sentence that makes each word's meaning clear. Your sentences can be to do with the story, or they can be different.

- 1 to invent _____
- 2 machine _____
- 3 recipe _____
- 4 product _____
- 5 advice _____

7 Writing

Read this quote and think about whether you agree with it. Then write a paragraph to answer each of the questions below.

'Dr Alfred Nobel became rich by finding ways to kill more people faster than ever before.'

- 1 Nobel invented dynamite and the Nobel Prize. Did he do more good or bad in the world?
- 2 You are offered a job. The company makes and sells weapons. Will you take the job?
- 3 You win a Nobel Prize. You do not believe Alfred Nobel was a good man. The prize money will help your work. Do you accept it?

8 Research

It is your job to award the next Nobel Peace Prize. Choose your winner. Write a paragraph about their life and work, and say why you have chosen this person.

ANSWER KEY (STUDENT ACTIVITIES)

Alfred Nobel

1 Guess

- 1 Swedish
- 2 more than 100 years ago
- 3 is named after him

2 Comprehension

- 1 money
- 2 machines
- 3 five (Swedish, Russian, French, German and English)
- 4 literature, chemistry
- 5 explosives
- 6 killed
- 7 dynamite

3 Comprehension

- 1 didn't believe
- 2 breaking up small areas of rock
- 3 was already engaged to Arthur von Suttner
- 4 Alfred
- 5 seven years after
- 6 died before

4 Comprehension and writing

Possible answers.

- 1 Because Nobel's father set up a successful business there.
- 2 They were taught at home by private teachers.
- 3 The youngest Nobel boy, Emil, was killed in an explosion at the family factory.
- 4 He invented a new explosive called dynamite and sold it around the world.
- 5 Because he realized that the world saw him as a killer.

5 Language

- 1 1864, was killed
- 2 1865, was destroyed
- 3 1876, was employed
- 4 1888, was reported
- 5 1895, were created
- 6 1901, were awarded

6 Vocabulary

Answers will vary.

7 Writing

Answers will vary.

8 Research

Answers will vary.