

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Helen Keller

Before reading

1 Guess

How much do you know about Helen Keller? Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)? If you don't know the answer, guess.

- 1 Helen Keller was 19 months old when she became deaf and blind. T/F
- 2 She became deaf and blind after she had an accident. T/F
- 3 She was the first deaf and blind person to get a degree. T/F
- 4 She started an organization that fights for the rights of women. T/F

While reading

2 Comprehension

Read up to the second section break on page 34. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb from the box.

become	begin	create	draw
get better	help	realize	send

- 1 When I was 19 months old, I _____ very sick with meningitis.
- 2 I _____ after the illness, but unfortunately I couldn't see or hear any more.
- 3 I _____ to communicate with Martha Washington, who was the daughter of our cook.
- 4 We _____ our own sign language when we played together.
- 5 My mother _____ that I needed professional help.
- 6 The Perkins School _____ a special teacher to our home.
- 7 Anne Sullivan _____ some signs on my hand.
- 8 Anne _____ me to escape from my lonely world.

3 Comprehension and writing

Read up to the second section break on page 35. Answer these questions in sentences. Use words and phrases from the text to help you.

- 1 Where did Helen Keller go when she was 8 years old?

- 2 What did Helen learn to do with Anne's help?

- 3 When did Helen and Anne move to New York?

- 4 Why was Helen 'happy and proud' in 1904?

- 5 What did Helen discover when she worked with workers' organizations?

- 6 When did she start her own organization?

- 7 What does Helen Keller International still do?

4 Comprehension

Read to the end of the story. Also read the timeline. Put these events in the correct order. Write 1–10 in the spaces.

- _____ Helen went to university and got a degree.
- _____ Winnie Corbally became Helen's guide.
- _____ Anne Sullivan was sent to teach Helen.
- _____ Helen 'read' the word *water* for the first time.
- _____ Helen created a sign language with another girl, Martha.
- _____ Helen went to the Perkins School for blind people.
- _____ Polly Thomson became Helen's guide.
- _____ Helen travelled the world and taught about blindness.
- _____ Helen won an award from the President of the USA.
- _____ Helen started her own organization.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Helen Keller

After reading

5 Language

Rearrange the letters in brackets to make adjectives, then complete the sentences.

- 1 With the help of several _____ people, I learned to communicate. (PESCILA)
- 2 I found it very difficult to learn and I became very _____. (RYNAG)
- 3 I enjoyed learning from Martha, but my mother realized that I needed _____ help. (SOILPRENOFAS)
- 4 Anne helped me to escape from my _____ world. (LOLYEN)
- 5 At the school, I was _____ to discover that there were other children like me. (CITEXED)
- 6 I tried to learn to speak, but it was _____. (CUFTIDFIL)
- 7 Our talks became very _____ and sometimes we earned up to \$2,000 a week. (ALPRUPO)
- 8 I became _____ because of the talks and the books. (SUAMFO)

6 Comprehension

Read the clues and complete the crossword.

1							7				
					2						
										8	
				3							
4											
5											
						6					

Across

- 1 At university, Anne Sullivan went with Helen Keller to every _____.
- 2 Helen Keller was the first deaf and blind person to get a _____.
- 3 She wrote many books in _____.
- 4 In 1964, she won an _____ from the President of the USA.
- 5 Alexander Graham Bell was the _____ of the telephone.
- 6 Martha Washington and Helen Keller created their own _____ language.

Down

- 1 Helen Keller wanted to use her _____ skills to help other people.
- 7 She worked with _____ that fought for women's rights.
- 8 Helen Keller was _____ and blind.

7 Writing

In the story, underline when Helen Keller expresses her feelings. Then write a paragraph about how she felt at different points in her life. Try to explain why she felt this way. Would you feel the same way?

Some useful phrases:

- Helen Keller felt ... when ...*
- She felt this way because ...*
- I would feel the same as / different to Helen because ...*

8 Research and writing

- 1 Find out more about Helen Keller and write a list of five or six interesting facts about her. You can use the 'Further Research' document to find some more useful information about her.
- 2 Find out some information about another successful blind and / or deaf person. Why is this person successful? What does he / she think about being blind / deaf?

ANSWER KEY (STUDENT ACTIVITIES)

Helen Keller

1 Guess

- 1 T
- 2 F (she became deaf and blind after an illness – meningitis)
- 3 T
- 4 F (she started an organization that educates people about blindness)

2 Comprehension

- 1 became
- 2 got better
- 3 began
- 4 created
- 5 realized
- 6 sent
- 7 drew
- 8 helped

3 Comprehension and writing

- 1 She went to the Perkins School for blind people.
- 2 She learned to read Braille (in English and later in other languages).
- 3 They moved to New York in 1894.
- 4 She felt like this because she was the first deaf and blind person to get a degree.
- 5 She discovered that some types of work make people blind.
- 6 She started her own organization in 1915.
- 7 The organization still teaches people about blindness.

4 Comprehension

- 5 9 2 3 1 4 8 7 10 6
- 1 Helen created a sign language with another girl, Martha.
 - 2 Anne Sullivan was sent to teach Helen.
 - 3 Helen 'read' the word *water* for the first time.
 - 4 Helen went to the Perkins School for blind people.
 - 5 Helen went to university and got a degree.
 - 6 Helen started her own organization.
 - 7 Helen travelled the world and taught about blindness.
 - 8 Polly Thomson became Helen's guide.
 - 9 Winnie Corbally became Helen's guide.
 - 10 Helen won an award from the President of the USA.

5 Language

- 1 special
- 2 angry
- 3 professional
- 4 lonely
- 5 excited
- 6 difficult
- 7 popular
- 8 famous

5 Comprehension

¹ C	L	A	S	S		⁷ O			
O						R			
M					² D	E	G	R	E
M						A			
U						N			⁸ D
N			³ B	R	A	I	L	L	E
I						Z			A
C						A			F
⁴ A	W	A	R	D		T			
T						I			
⁵ I	N	V	E	N	T	O	R		
O						N			
N						⁶ S	I	G	N

7 Writing

Answers will vary.

8 Research and writing

Answers will vary.