



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: VIII	Department: ENGLISH	2021-22
	Topic: BIO SKETCH	

STUDY NOTES/WORKSHEET

INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON:

A bio-sketch or Biographical sketch of a person contains a detailed account of his physical outlook, characteristics, nature, job profile and other relevant personal information as required. The data provided in the question is used to write a bio-sketch or personally compiled by the writer.

What is a biographical sketch?

A bio-sketch or a biographical sketch is a brief write up that to summarize a person's life, achievements, character, experiences, etc. It is a short description highlighting the main traits of the personality of the chosen subject.

How to write a biographical sketch?

It is always written by a person other than the one who is being described. The aim of a bio-sketch is large to present a positive picture of the person concerned. It is advisable to present all the information in chronological order while writing a bio-sketch so that the reader can trace the life of the subject from the beginning to the end.

Biographical Sketch Format

The main points that need to be incorporated while writing a bio-sketch are:

- Full name, date of birth/age, place of birth
- Major personality traits
- Educational details highlighting any major achievements or awards
- His/her contribution to society
- Any special interest
- Why is he/she famous or known for?

➤ A **biographical sketch** is always written in the third person and aims at describing the significant achievements or impressive traits of a person's personality.

- Before writing a **bio-sketch**, the writer needs to conduct a thorough research about the life of the subject he/she has chosen. This can be done by reading reliable information in journals, books, libraries or online database.
- The writer can then prepare a timeline of the person’s life and decide which points he/she wishes to highlight. Since a **bio-sketch** is a brief description, it describes such **qualities, events and achievements**.
- In short, the *writer should be able to paint a pen portrait of the subject* and convince the reader that the person was unique and worth reading about.

Biographical sketch solved examples

Q. Write a **biographical sketch** of Vishwanathan Anand – Grandmaster, a world Chess Champion in your own words in not more than **100-120 words**. Clues have been given.

NAME:	VISHWANATHAN ANAND
BORN:	December 11, 1969, in Tamil Nadu
NATIONALITY:	Indian
HOBBIES:	Listening to music, swimming and reading
ALSO KNOWN AS:	Vishy or the ‘Tiger of Madras’
INSTRUCTOR:	Learnt chess from mother at the age of 6
MARRITAL STATUS:	Married
CHILDREN:	A son
KNOWN FOR/ACHIEVEMENTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Undisputed Title of World Chess Champion from 2007 to 2013 ➤ First Asian at 17 to win the world chess title oat the FIDE Junior Championship, 1987 ➤ Published his collection of games under the title ‘Vishy Anand: My Best Games of Chess’. ➤ Padma Shri at the age of 18 ➤ Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratan ➤ Padma Vibhushan ➤ Arjun Award ➤ Chess Oscar

ANSWER:

VISHWANATHAN ANAND

Vishwanathan Anand was born on December 11, 1969, in Tamil Nadu. He is an Indian chess player who won the undisputed title of World Chess Champion from 2007-2013. He learnt to play chess from his mother at the age of 6. He became the first Asian at the age of 17 to win the world chess title at the FIDE World Junior Championship in the year 1987. He has published his collection of games under the title 'Vishy Anand: My Best Games of Chess.' Anand is fond of listening to music, swimming and reading. He is married to Aruna Anand and has a son. He is fondly referred to as Vishy, or the 'Tiger of Madras' and was awarded the Padma Shri at a young age of 18 years. Besides that, he has also bagged the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, Arjuna and Chess Oscar.

Q. Write a biographical sketch of Kailash Satyarthi, a Nobel Peace Prize Honorary, in your own words in not more than **100-120 words**, Clues have been given.

Born 11 January 1954, Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh, India-academic qualification-Electrical Engineer-family-married, Two children-a daughter and a son-prize motivation – 'His struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education' – awards – Nobel Peace Prize, 2014 (shared with malala Yousafzai) – Defenders of Democracy Award (US), 2009-Alfonso Comin International Award (Spain), 2008 – The Robert. Kennedy Human Rights Award, 1995 – popular child Rights Activist- started a journal 'The Struggle Shall Continue' in 1980 (create awareness about child labour) – founder – Bachpan Andolan (BBA), a movement dedicated towards eradication of human trafficking and bonded child labour.

ANSWER:

Kailash Satyarthi

Kailash Satyarthi is a renowned Child Rights Activist. He was born on 11 January 1945 in Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh. He is married and has two children – a daughter and a son. He is an electrical engineer by profession. He left his job and started working towards the eradication of child slavery and child labour. He is the founder of the Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), a movement dedicated towards eradication of human trafficking and bonded child labour. He started a journal 'The Struggle Shall Continue' in 1980 to create awareness about the widespread weevil of child labour. He is the Nobel Peace Prize winner for India for 'his struggle against the

suppression of children and found people and for the right of all children to education. 'He is also the only second Indian winner of the Nobel Peace Prize after Mother Teresa in 1980. He has won several other awards like Defenders of Democracy Award (US) in 2009, Alfonso Comin International Award (Spain) in 2008 and the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award in 1995

Q. Write a biographical sketch of Abraham Lincoln, in your own words in not more than 100-120 words, Clues have been given.

Born: 1809 in Northern Kentucky

Family: Father-a wealthy farmer-lost his land when Lincoln was 7, moved to Indiana

Mother-died when he was 9, the family moved to Illinois soon after

Education: Little formal education, loved to read. Studied law by reading law books

Became a lawyer in 1837, Springfield, Illinois

Political

Career: began early-served in State Legislature, in the U.S House of Representatives. Gifted Speaker, speeches against slavery, nomination for Presidency- won in 1860. Re-elected in 1864

Death: assassinated by John Wilks Booth on April 15, 1865. Remembered for wisdom, compassion, patriotism.

ANSWER:

In 1809, Abraham Lincoln was born to a wealthy farmer family in Northern Kentucky. When he was 7 years old, his father lost his farming land and moved to Indiana. At the age of nine years old, after his mother passed away, his family moved to Illinois for livelihood. Abraham had little formal education but had a strong interest in books and learning. He studied law books as his own and started his career as a lawyer in 1837, Springfield, Illinois. He soon moved in to politics and served in State Legislature, in the U.S House of Representatives. He was a talented orator. In his speeches, he talked about the abolition of slavery. Finally, he was nominated and became the president in 1860. In 1864 he was re-elected as president. He was shot by John Wilks Booth on April 15, 1865. Abraham Lincoln is often remembered for his wisdom, compassion and patriotism that led him to the nation's highest office.

Worksheet

Q. Write the biographical sketch of Raghuram Rajan, former Governor of RBI, in your own words in not more than 100-120 words. Clues have been given: (biographical sketch example for students)

Former governor-RBI-23rd-born February 3, 1963- Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh – Tamil family – father was senior bureaucrat – graduate from IIT Delhi in 1985- management degree from IIM- Ahmedabad in 1987-doctoral degree in 1991 from MIT-HKUST (Hongkong University of Science and Technology)-vegetarian-loves swimming, squash, tennis, running-married to Radhika Puri-she is a lecturer of law- at Chicago Law School-he served as the Chief Economic Advisor to Finance Ministry- was the youngest Chief Economist- at IMF in 2003 – prestigious awards- Fischer Black Prize-Best Central bank Governor Award-Deutsche Bank Prize for financial economics

Q. Write the biography sketch of Nelson Mandela, the first Black President, in your own words in not more than 100-125 words. Clues have been given.

FULL NAME:	Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela
BORN:	18 July 1918, Royal family of South Africa, got an English name, Nelson, from his teacher
EDUCATION:	Local Mission school Methodist College at Beaufort University of Witwatersrand Law from African National Congress 1. 1944, let peaceful protest and armed resistance 2. Protected rights of blacks 3. Convicted of overthrowing the government 4. Imprisoned for 27 years 5. Elected first black President, 1994 6. Retired from politics in 1999 7. Continued working for world peace
FOUNDER:	The Nelson Mandela Foundation, AIDS awareness
DIED:	95 years age in 2013

AWARDS:

1. Bharat Ratan in 1990
2. Nobel Peace Prize in 1993

Q. St. George's School, Madurai is celebrating its Annual Sports Day. Former Indian Table Tennis champion, Indu Puri is the Chief Guest on the occasion. As Priyanka/Pratyuksh, the Sports Captain of the school, introduce the Chief Guest by giving a brief bio-sketch in 100 words. You may use the information given below.

Indu Puri

- born 11 September 1953, Kolkata, West Bengal
- former Indian international female Table Tennis sportsperson – 1970s and 1980s
- won National women's singles title a record eight times; highest rankings: international 63 (1985), Asian 8, and Commonwealth 2
- first Indian to beat a world champion, beating Pak Yung-Sun of North Korea in the 1978 Asian Table Tennis Championships at Kuala Lumpur

Awards and Achievements

- Chairperson of Committee selection of Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna 2008 and Dhyanchand Award 2009 awardees
- 'observer' at various sporting events across the nation
- Arjuna Award for the year 1979-1980

Q. Look at the notes given below and use the information to complete the paragraph about Shakuntala Devi by writing suitable words or phrases in each space. Do not exceed 100 words.

Shakuntala Devi hailed as human-computer – extraordinary talents to solve mathematical problems – place in Guinness Book of World Records – now use talents – field of astrology – develop love for numbers – three years old – expert-complex mental arithmetic – 5 years old – no formal education – father – take different places exhibit prowess – reputation spread – today acclaim – an accomplished mathematician – 18 June 1980 – the product of two thirteen-digit numbers in twenty-eight seconds – amaze US scientists – the immediate answer to complex arithmetical problems by the conventional approach.

Q. With the help of the given clues, complete the bio-sketch of Sachin Tendulkar in not more than 100 words.

Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar

Birth: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India 1973; called the Little Master or the Master Blaster

Achievements: one of the greatest batsmen in the history of cricket; highest run-scorer in both Test matches and ODIs; Wisden ranked him the second greatest Test batsman of all time next only to Sir Donald Bradman and second greatest one-day international (ODI) batsman of all time next only to Sir Viv Richards.

Honors: Padma Vibhushan award, India's second-highest civilian award, and the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award, India's highest sporting honor; given rank of Group Captain in the IAF.

Q. With the help of the given clues, complete the bio-sketch of A.R. Rahman in not more than 100 words.

Born: as Dileep Kumar – 6 January 1966, Chennai, Tamil Nadu; changed name to A.R. Rahman

Fame: music director and singer

Family: lost father at an early age; mother's influence great

Trained under: Master Dhanraj, Ilaiyaraja

Education: graduate in Western classical music from Trinity College of Music

Began Music career: 1992 – set up a recording studio; film career began

Awards: fourteen Filmfare Awards, four National Film Awards, two Grammy Awards, two Academy Awards, Padma Bhushan in 2010, contribution to music immense; a national icon.