

The Life Story of Helen Keller



Helen Keller, born on June 27, 1880, in Tuscumbia, Alabama, was a remarkable individual whose life story continues to inspire people around the world. At the age of only 19 months, Keller became deaf and blind following a serious illness. Despite these profound challenges, Keller's courage and determination propelled her to become one of the most influential figures of the 20th century.

In 1887, Keller's parents sought the guidance of Anne Sullivan, a young and determined teacher who would become Keller's lifelong mentor and friend. Sullivan, herself visually impaired, employed innovative methods to communicate with Keller, including finger-spelling words into her hand. With Sullivan's help, Keller made remarkable progress in learning to communicate and understand the world around her.

Keller's thirst for knowledge knew no bounds. In 1904, she graduated cum laude from Radcliffe College, becoming the first deaf-blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree. Later, in 1955 at the age of 75, she was awarded an honorary degree from Harvard University. Keller's academic achievements were just the beginning of her lifelong dedication to advocating for the rights of people with disabilities.

Throughout her life, Keller tirelessly campaigned for social justice and equality. She was a passionate advocate for women's suffrage, labor rights, and the abolition of child labor. Keller's unwavering commitment to social reform earned her widespread acclaim and recognition.

Keller's influence extended beyond her activism. She was a prolific author and lecturer, publishing numerous books and essays on topics ranging from education to spirituality. Keller's autobiography, "The Story of My Life," published in 1903, remains a classic of American literature, offering readers a glimpse into her remarkable journey of triumph over adversity.

In recognition of her extraordinary achievements, Keller received numerous awards and honors throughout her life. In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States. Keller's legacy continues to be celebrated through the work of organizations such as the Helen Keller International, which provides vision and health care services to communities around the world.

Helen Keller passed away on June 1, 1968, just weeks before her 88th birthday, but her legacy lives on. Her remarkable journey from isolation to empowerment serves as a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the power of perseverance. Keller's life is a reminder that with determination and courage, individuals can overcome even the most formidable obstacles and leave an indelible mark on the world.

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Comprehension Quiz Practice – Helen Keller

● **Choose the best answers.**

- At what age did Helen Keller lose her ability to see and hear?**
 - 19 years old
 - less than 2 years old
 - 7 years old
 - since birth
- How did Anne Sullivan teach Helen Keller to communicate?**
 - finger spelling
 - lip reading
 - Braille
 - sign language
- In what year did Helen Keller graduate from Radcliffe College?**
 - 1904
 - 1887
 - 1955
 - 1880
- Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a cause that Keller advocated for?**
 - women's suffrage
 - labor rights
 - rights for people with disabilities
 - animal welfare
- What is the title of Helen Keller's autobiography?**
 - The Autobiography of Helen Keller
 - The Story of Helen Keller
 - My Autobiography
 - The Story of My Life
- When was Helen Keller given an award by the President of the United States?**
 - 1968
 - 1955
 - 1964
 - throughout her life
- What organization does work in Keller's name to help people around the world?**
 - Helen Keller Vision and Health Care
 - Helen Keller International
 - Helen Keller Freedom Services
 - Helen Keller Organization
- In what year did Helen Keller pass away?**
 - 1988
 - 1956
 - 1968
 - 1964

● **Discuss the following questions with a classmate.**

- How does the life story of Helen Keller make you feel? Why?
- Should more be done to celebrate the life of Helen Keller? If yes, what?
- What challenges do you think people with disabilities still face in today's society? What steps can be taken to address these challenges?
- Will modern medicine ever advance to a point where people can restore their vision with robotic eyes? If yes, when?
- Can you think of any other successful people who have had to overcome physical disabilities? Who?
- Talk about a time you tried something very difficult but didn't give up.
- June 27th (Helen Keller's birthday) is Helen Keller Day. How could your class celebrate Helen Keller's life on this day?

Level Advanced

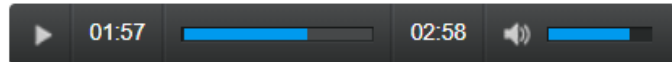
Time Approximately 20 minutes

“The Life Story of Helen Keller”

As **Reading Quiz Practice** – or as **Listening Quiz Practice**



Downloadable Audio File: 2 minutes and 58 seconds



ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. B | 5. D |
| 2. A | 6. C |
| 3. A | 7. B |
| 4. D | 8. C |

Visit all my sites!

www.allthingsgrammar.com

www.allthingstoppers.com

www.allthingslistening.com

www.allthings-esl.com

www.facebook.com/allthingsgrammar

Grades as percentages

$$8 / 8 = 100\%$$

$$7 / 8 = 87.5$$

$$6 / 8 = 75$$

$$5 / 8 = 62.5$$

$$4 / 8 = 50$$

$$3 / 8 = 37.5$$

$$2 / 8 = 25$$

$$1 / 8 = 12.5$$

$$0 / 8 = 0$$