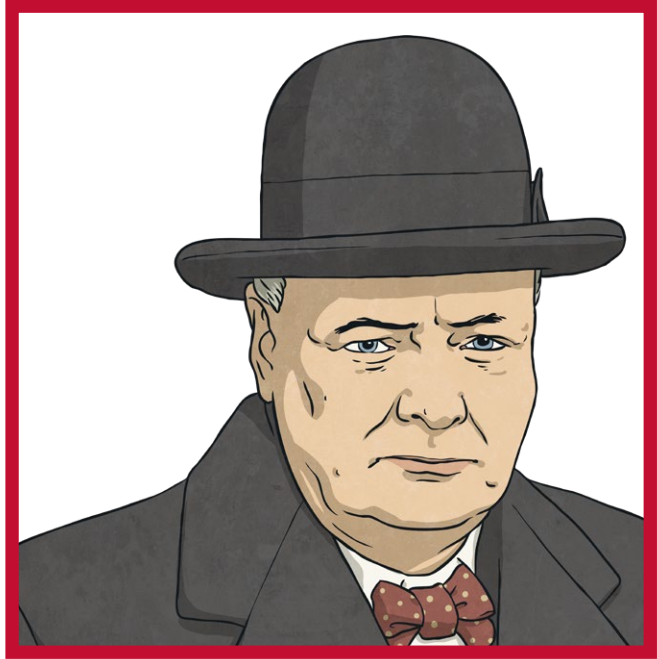


Winston Churchill Fact File

Winston Churchill is one of Great Britain's most famous statesmen and Prime Ministers because he was the British leader twice and he also led Britain to victory in the Second World War.

Early Life

He was born Winston Leonard Spencer-Churchill on 30th November 1874 at Blenheim Palace (the seat of his grandfather, the 7th Duke of Marlborough) in Oxfordshire. His father was Lord Randolph, a Conservative politician, and his mother was Jeanette, Lady Randolph Churchill. When he was 13, he only managed to make the lowest class at Harrow school, so his father put him in the army class to prepare for a career in the armed forces.



Early Career

He commenced his army career as a cadet in 1893 at Sandhurst, after having three attempts to pass the entrance exam. He eventually became a cavalry officer and war reporter, spending his 21st birthday working in Cuba. In 1898, he went to fight in the Sudan but he knew that politics was his first love and his aspiration. He, therefore, spent time following the news from home and reading past parliamentary debates that his mother sent to him.

Famous Churchill Quotes:

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

"Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm."

"Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

"We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender."

Into Politics at Last!

At the 1900 general election, he became a Member of Parliament (MP) for Oldham and he made his first speech in Parliament in 1901. He always prepared well and used notes to help attempt to overcome his lisp. Meanwhile, in his private life, he married Clementine in 1908 and they went on to have five children.

Rising to the Top

By 1910, Churchill had become Home Secretary and was in charge of the Royal Navy. He then spent a short amount of time as Chancellor of the Exchequer, in charge of the country's taxes and money. The initial part of the Second World War in 1939 did not go well for Britain and in 1940, Britain needed a new Prime Minister. That was to be Winston Churchill.

Later Life

Churchill led Britain through the Second World War with his direction, his 'V' for victory hand sign and his many famous speeches. However, not long after the war, Britain needed a change and the Conservatives lost power. Churchill kept up with his writing. A second chance to lead the country came round when the Conservatives were re-elected to power and Churchill was Prime Minister once more from 1951 to 1955. Even after that, he continued to be an MP until 1964. In 1965, he died aged 90. He is buried in a small churchyard in Oxford and his headstone reads: 'Remember Winston Churchill'.

Winston Churchill Questions

1. What does MP stand for?

2. In the 'Early Career' paragraph, the author uses the word 'attempts'; write two or more synonyms for this word.

3. In the government, of what is the Chancellor of the Exchequer in charge?

4. Why did Churchill follow the news from home while he was in the Sudan?

5. The author uses the subheading 'Into Politics at Last!' for one of the paragraphs. Why has the author used the phrase 'at last' and an exclamation mark?

6. Find an example of a fronted adverbial in the text.

7. On what exact date was Churchill in Cuba?

8. In the Famous Churchill Quotes section, what does the word 'fatal' mean?

9. In the 'Rising to the Top' paragraph, what does the word 'initial' mean?

10. Churchill is famous for his quotes; what do you think about the ones here? Have any of them made you think, and why? Which do you like best?

Winston Churchill Answers

1. What does MP stand for?

Member of Parliament

2. In the 'Early Career' paragraph, the author uses the word 'attempts'; write two or more synonyms for this word.

Accept two or more from: tries, efforts, goes, shots, bids, stabs, cracks (or any other acceptable synonym)

3. In the government, of what is the Chancellor of the Exchequer in charge?

Money and taxes

4. Why did Churchill follow the news from home while he was in the Sudan?

Because he loved politics and had an ambition to work in politics

5. The author uses the subheading 'Into Politics at Last!' for one of the paragraphs. Why has the author used the phrase 'at last' and an exclamation mark?

The author used 'at last' because it was Churchill's goal to get into politics but he did lots of other things first; the exclamation mark turns the subheading into a shout of joy or relief, as Churchill has finally achieved his goal.

6. Find an example of a fronted adverbial in the text.

'Meanwhile', 'In 1898', 'By 1910'

7. On what exact date was Churchill in Cuba?

30th November 1895 (it was his 21st birthday).

8. In the Famous Churchill Quotes section, what does the word 'fatal' mean?

Causing the death or the end of something

9. In the 'Rising to the Top' paragraph, what does the word 'initial' mean?

Initial means 'first'

10. Churchill is famous for his quotes; what do you think about the ones here? Have any of them made you think, and why? Which do you like best?

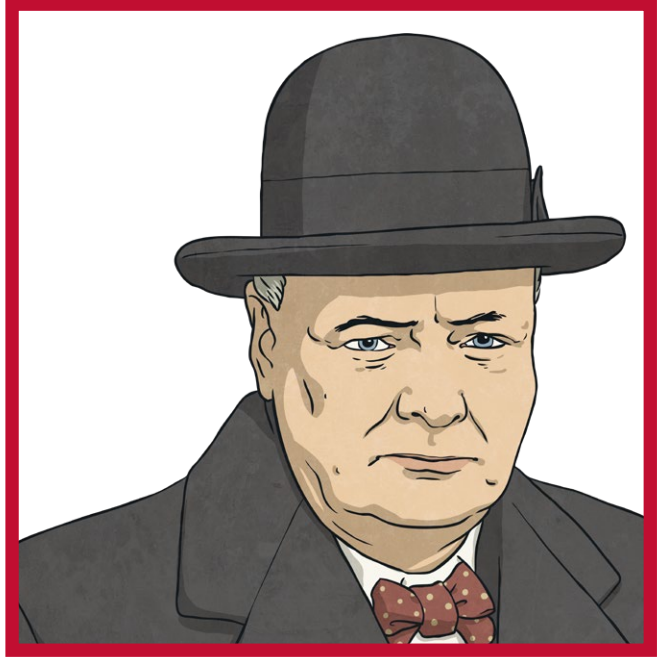
Open ended, good for class or group discussion

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Early Career

Churchill began his army career as a cadet in 1893 at Sandhurst, after having three attempts to pass the entrance exam. He eventually became a cavalry officer and war reporter, spending his 21st birthday working in Cuba. In 1898, he went to fight in the Sudan but he knew that politics was his first love. He, therefore, spent time following the news from home and doing lots of reading.

Famous Churchill Quotes:

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

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"We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender."

Into Politics

At the 1900 general election, he became a Member of Parliament (MP) for Oldham and he made his first speech in Parliament in 1901. He always prepared well and used notes as part of his method to overcome his lisp. Meanwhile, in his private life, he was married to Clementine in 1908 and they went on to have five children.

Rising to the Top

By 1910, Churchill had become Home Secretary and was in charge of the Royal Navy. He then spent a short amount of time as Chancellor of the Exchequer, in charge of the country's taxes and money. The first part of the Second World War in 1939 did not go well for Britain and in 1940, Britain needed a new Prime Minister. That was to be Winston Churchill.

Later Life

Churchill led Britain through the Second World War with his direction and his many famous speeches. However, not long after the war, Britain needed a change and the Conservatives lost power. Churchill kept up with his writing. A second chance to lead the country came round when the Conservatives were re-elected to power and Churchill was Prime Minister once more from 1951 to 1955. Even after that, he continued to be an MP until 1964. In 1965, he died aged 90. He is buried in a small churchyard in Oxford and his headstone reads: 'Remember Winston Churchill'.

Winston Churchill Questions

1. What was Churchill's career before he went into politics?

2. What was the name of his wife?

3. Which political party was he part of?

4. In what year did he officially get a job in politics?

5. Why has the author used the subheading 'Rising to the Top' for that paragraph?

6. Find an example of a fronted adverbial in the text.

7. In what month was he in Cuba?

8. In the Famous Churchill Quotes section, what does the word 'conflict' mean?

9. What does the word 'victory' mean?

10. Churchill is famous for his quotes; what do you think about the ones here? Have any of them made you think, and why? Which do you like best?

Winston Churchill **Answers**

1. What was Churchill's career before he went into politics?

He was in the Army (cavalry officer) or he was a war reporter

2. What was the name of his wife?

Clementine

3. Which political party was he part of?

The Conservative party

4. In what year did he officially get a job in politics?

In 1900 when he became an MP.

5. Why has the author used the subheading 'Rising to the Top' for that paragraph?

The paragraph is about progressing (rising) to be prime minister, which is the 'top' job in the country.

6. Find an example of a fronted adverbial in the text.

'Meanwhile', 'In 1898', 'By 1910'

7. In what month was he in Cuba?

November (it was his birthday).

8. In the Famous Churchill Quotes section, what does the word 'conflict' mean?

War/fighting/battle

9. What does the word 'victory' mean?

Winning/having won

10. Churchill is famous for his quotes; what do you think about the ones here? Have any of them made you think, and why? Which do you like best?

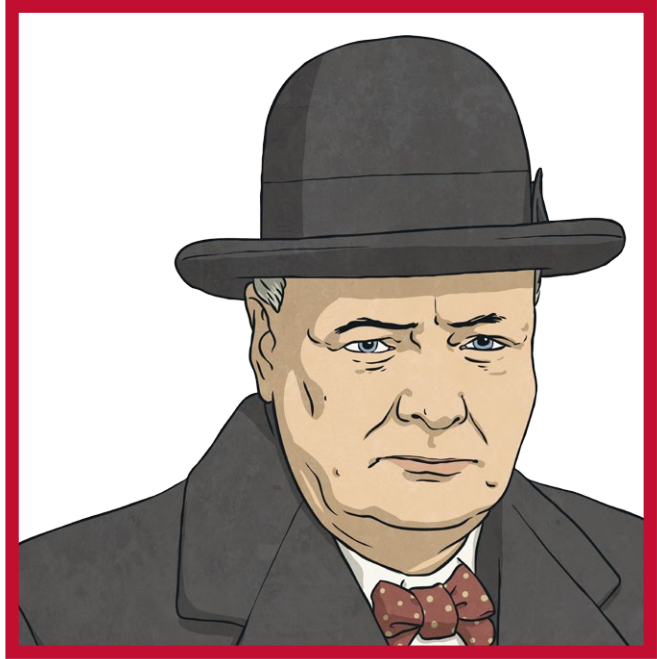
Open ended, good for class or group discussion

Winston Churchill Fact File

Winston Churchill is a very famous British Prime Minister. He is famous because he was Prime Minister twice and because he led Britain to win the Second World War.

Childhood

He was born Winston Leonard Spencer-Churchill on 30th November 1874 at Blenheim Palace near Oxford. His father was Lord Randolph, a Conservative politician, and his mother was called Jeanette. When he was 13, he wasn't doing very well at Harrow school and only just got into the lowest class, so his father put in the army class.



Early Career

He started his army career as a cadet in 1893 at Sandhurst army training centre, after having three tries to pass the entrance exam. He eventually became an officer and war reporter. In 1898, he fought in the Sudan in North East Africa, but he knew that politics was his goal. He spent time following the news from home and doing lots of reading.

Famous Churchill Quotes:

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

"Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm."

"Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

"We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender."

Politics

At the 1900 general election, people voted for him to become the MP (Member of Parliament) for Oldham in Lancashire. He always prepared well for his speeches and used notes because he had a lisp. Meanwhile, in his home life, he married Clementine in 1908 and they went on to have five children.

Rising to the Top

By 1910, his job was Home Secretary for the government and that meant he was in charge of the Royal Navy. After that, he was Chancellor, which meant he was in charge of the country's taxes and money. The first part of the Second World War in 1939 had not gone well for Britain so in 1940, Britain needed a new Prime Minister. That was to be Winston Churchill.

Later Life

Churchill led Britain through the Second World War and made many famous speeches. However, not long after the war Britain needed a change and the Conservatives lost power. Churchill kept up with his writing. When the Conservatives were re-elected to power, he became Prime Minister again, from 1951 to 1955. Even after that, he stayed an MP until 1964. In 1965, he died aged 90. His gravestone reads: 'Remember Winston Churchill'.

Winston Churchill Questions

1. Find two conjunctions in the introduction paragraph.

2. How many children did Churchill have?

3. Find two verbs in the last paragraph.

4. In what year did he first get a job in politics?

5. Why has the author put (Member of Parliament) in brackets in the 'Politics' section?

6. What is a quote?

7. What does it say on Churchill's gravestone?

8. In the Famous Churchill Quotes section, what does the word 'defend' mean?

9. What was the name of Churchill's wife?

10. Churchill is famous for his quotes; what do you think about the ones here? Have any of them made you think, and why? Which do you like best?

Winston Churchill **Answers**

1. Find two conjunctions in the introduction paragraph.

'Because' and 'and'

2. How many children did Churchill have?

Five

3. Find two verbs in the last paragraph.

Any two from: led, made, needed, lost, kept up, were re-elected, became, stayed, died, reads

4. In what year did he first get a job in politics?

In 1900, when he became an MP

5. Why has the author put (Member of Parliament) in brackets in the 'Politics' section?

To explain what the letters MP stand for if the reader does not know.

6. What is a quote?

Something that someone has said or written (the exact words they used)

7. What does it say on Churchill's gravestone?

'Remember Winston Churchill'

8. In the Famous Churchill Quotes section, what does the word 'defend' mean?

Keep something safe/protect/stop attacks

9. What was the name of Churchill's wife?

Clementine

10. Churchill is famous for his quotes; what do you think about the ones here? Have any of them made you think, and why? Which do you like best?

Open ended, good for class or group discussion