

## B1.11 Stamps and Notes

### You can learn:

- How to talk about significant people in your culture.
- How to write a biography of someone you admire.

1



In most countries, there is a tradition of choosing famous people for stamps and banknotes. This is a tradition that of course continues today.



1

The stamp on the left above comes from the Faroe Islands (which are self-governing, but part of the Danish realm). On it is a poet, professor and expert on the Faroese language called Christian Matras. The stamp on the right above has on it a famous Finnish chemist and recipient of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1945, Artturi Virtanen.

**B1.11 Stamps and Notes**

2

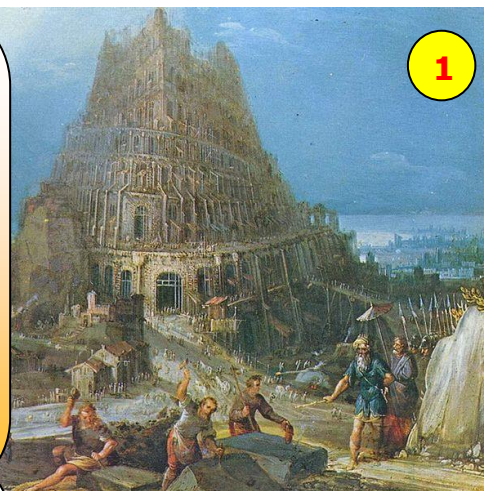


**Now, read about the famous people which the Europeans below would choose for stamps, or banknotes, if they could make the selection.**



Attribution to uniondocs

*I'm from Holland and I'm going to choose one of our famous artists - Pieter Bruegel, the Elder. This is one of his best paintings, "The Tower of Babel 2". The reason I like it, and his work in general, is because...*



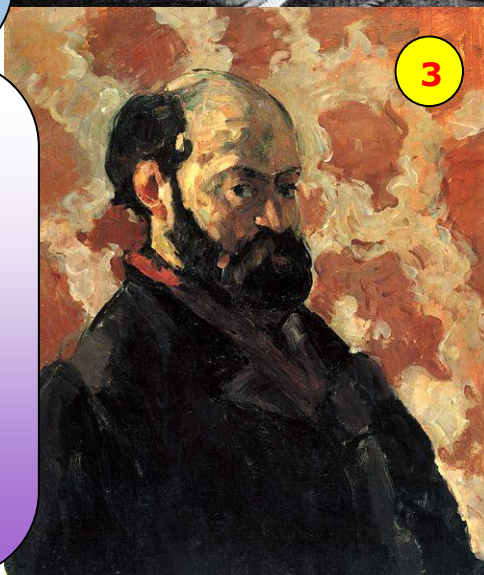
Attribution to Turnmaster Tim

*I'm from Croatia and I'm going to choose a political figure of great importance in our history in the twentieth century. Croatia then, under his leadership, was part of Yugoslavia. He is a controversial figure, but at that time in history I think, overall, he did more good...*



Attribution to Calotype46

*I'm a French lady. And I'm going to choose an artist. Paul Cezanne is a post-impressionist. He is my favourite painter, and he has had a great influence on all the famous artists, such as Picasso, that came after him. He was a great...*





**B1.11 Stamps and Notes**



Image Attribution to Ravages

*I'm from Greece and I'm going to choose one of our famous scientists. He was a pioneer in the early detection of cancer. So, there are probably many people today who are alive because of him. His name is Georgios Papanikolaou, and he worked on...*

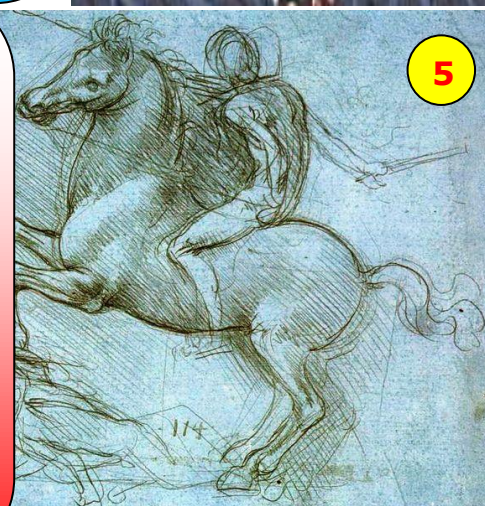


4



Image Attribution to fabiogis50

*I'm from Italy and I'm going to choose Leonardo da Vinci. This drawing is a study for a sculpture and you can see from it how incredibly talented he was. There can be no doubt at all that he was a genius. His inventions, his scientific studies, the Mona Lisa - all of these demonstrate that...*



5



Attribution to lifebeginsat50mm

*I'm a Polish woman. I'm going to choose a contemporary politician. He was President of Poland from 1995-2005. His name is Aleksander Kwaśniewski, and I am very pleased that he took us into NATO and the EU. He introduced the new Constitution of Poland, and I think that he was an...*



6

**B1.11 Stamps and Notes**

3



Now it is *your* turn. Imagine that you can each choose three famous people from your country to be on stamps or banknotes. It is probably best to choose people who have not been chosen already and currently appear on them. You can choose sports people, scientists, inventors, artists, politicians, actors...anyone you like! You can choose contemporary figures or ones from history.



4

You should choose your particular favourite to be on the First Class stamp and your next two choices can go on the Second Class stamps. You should talk about why each person is such a good choice and why you think they deserve to be widely recognised by the general public. Your partner should ask questions to find out as much information as possible about these very important people.

4



Now write a brief biography of one of the people you have chosen to appear on the stamps above.

*David Bowie is a famous musician and cultural figure...*

