

# Charles Dickens 200 Years

## DID YOU KNOW THAT 2

### **Ex.1. Speaking**

In pairs or groups of three answer the following questions.

1. What cities in Britain do you know?
2. How are bananas imported into Europe?
3. How has the fashion changed in the last 200 years?
4. Do you know any important ships?
5. What has Arnold Schwarzenegger got in common with Charles Dickens?
6. How can you make a difference to other people?
7. Do you enjoy working out in a gym?
8. What, do you think, invisible angels are?
9. Which countries used to belong to the British Empire?
10. What should we do with criminals?

### **Ex.2. Reading and Vocabulary**

Read the text and discuss in pairs the words and phrases in bold.

### **Ex.3. Reading and Discussion**

Read the text again and tick any piece of information that you found new or interesting. Compare with your partner.

**PHOTOCOPIABLE**

[www.dickens2011.eu](http://www.dickens2011.eu)

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Charles John Huffam Dickens was born on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 1812 and died on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 1870 at the age of 58. He was one of the most famous and prolific novelists of the Victorian period. Many of his books were published serially in magazines, which explains the frequent suspense effect at the end of individual chapters. Charles Dickens has been respected worldwide as a writer for his concern for the poor, unique characters he created and for his sense of humor. In 2012 we are celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birthday.

Did you know that...

- Charles Dickens comes from Portsmouth, where he was born and lived as a child? In 2012 the city celebrates its famous author. Portsmouth Festivities, the local festival organized at the end of June, will **host** many art and **literary** events to celebrate Dickens' input into literature and social change and the power of storytelling. The theme for the event will be Great .
- Sherlock Conan Doyle was also born in Portsmouth while Rudyard Kipling and H.G. Wells, writers, lived there and Arnold Schwarzenegger, bodybuilder, actor and Governor of California used to **work out** in a gym in Albert Road.
- HMS Victory, Nelson's **flagship** at Trafalgar, was built in Portsmouth.
- Portsmouth is one of the UK's largest fruit handling ports. It **handles** fruit from Central and South America, Morocco, South Africa, New Zealand and the eastern Mediterranean. 65% of bananas eaten in Britain now pass through the port.
- The Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Councilor Cheryl Buggy has launched a campaign **searching** for the people in Portsmouth who have **made a difference** to someone else's life, showing love, care and. The **award** will be a way of saying thank you to the invisible angels.

Did you know that...

- Victorians were dealing with their criminals by sending them off to Australia. Transportation to Australia had reached its peak in the early 1830s.
- In 1857 a large part of the Indian army **rebelled** against the British authorities. **Imperial authority** was restored but the lesson learnt for the British was to show more respect for Indian traditions and way of life.
- Towards the end of the nineteenth century dresses became simpler and ladies gave up wearing the farthingale skirts which had **hoops of whalebone or wicker cane**. Victorians preferred more comfortable **petticoats**.

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### Teachers' Notes

Before asking students to read the text ask them to discuss the questions in Ex.1..

You can use the following technique:

- Students stand in two lines facing each other.
- Teacher writes the questions on board.
- Students answer the first question with the person opposite.
- Then the teachers ask students in one line to move one person to the right.
- Everybody has a new partner now.
- With new partners students discuss the second question.
- They change partners at the teacher's signal, before every question.

Try it, it's fun. And students don't have to sit at their desks all the time.

You can then ask the group what they think all the questions have in common.

Then ask the students to read the text and do exercises 2 and 3.

You can also take the students to the following websites:

- <http://www.portsmouthfestivities.co.uk/>
- [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/interactive/games/dressing\\_up\\_f/index\\_embed.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/interactive/games/dressing_up_f/index_embed.shtml) - great interactive game showing the fashion of Tudor and Victorian times.

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