

ACTIVITY: FAMOUS PEOPLE MATCHING



Complete the matching activity below and reflect on how these famous people have surpassed the expectations of others to become leaders in their fields. The following famous people are individuals diagnosed with specific learning and other disabilities. Match each paragraph to the person it best describes. Write the letter of the correct person's name in the blank to the left of the paragraph. The answers are provided at the end.

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| a. Thomas Edison | f. Cher | k. Harriet Tubman |
| b. Agatha Christie | g. Tom Cruise | l. Marlee Matlin |
| c. Albert Einstein | h. Ann Bancroft | m. Chris Burke |
| d. Whoopi Goldberg | i. Walt Disney | n. Lucille Ball |
| e. James Earl Jones | j. Leonardo Da Vinci | o. Carrie Fisher |

- ____ I am currently a very popular movie star. Some of the movies I have starred in are "Jerry Maguire," "Top Gun," and "The Last Samurai." I learn my lines by listening to a tape because I have dyslexia.
- ____ Fans remember me best for my performance in the movies "The Color Purple" and "Sister Act," but I am also a comedian. I have struggled with a learning disability all my life.
- ____ I was slow in school and had a hard time doing my work. I didn't do anything well until I realized a real strength of mine was drawing. I became a well-known cartoonist and movie producer. Some famous amusement parks have my name.
- ____ I have always had to deal with my disability. My weakest area has always been math. However, even though I cannot balance a checkbook, I have become a movie star and won an Oscar for my lead in "Moonstruck." My daughter, Chastity, has learning disabilities, too.
- ____ When I was a child, an overseer struck me. The blow fractured my skull causing me to have narcolepsy for the rest of my life. I rescued hundreds of slaves through the Underground Railroad.
- ____ As a boy, I had such a severe stutter that, for eight years, I refused to talk and was functionally mute. Today, I am the voice of CNN and Bell Atlantic. I am also known for being the voice of Darth Vader in the original "Star Wars" movie.
- ____ I love to write mystery stories and plays. One of my favorite plays is "The Mousetrap." My learning disability is in the area of writing. My disability is so severe that I dictate my stories for others to type for me.
- ____ I am the first hearing-impaired actress to win an Oscar. I won a 1987 Academy Award for Best Actress in "Children of a Lesser God."

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Thomas Edison | f. Cher | k. Harriet Tubman |
| b. Agatha Christie | g. Tom Cruise | l. Marlee Matlin |
| c. Albert Einstein | h. Ann Bancroft | m. Chris Burke |
| d. Whoopi Goldberg | i. Walt Disney | n. Lucille Ball |
| e. James Earl Jones | j. Leonardo Da Vinci | o. Carrie Fisher |

9. ____ I always had trouble learning. My teachers said I was “obnoxious” and had “artistic talent.” During my lifetime, my artistic talent was expressed through architecture, painting, sculpture, and engineering. One of my best-known paintings is the Mona Lisa.
10. ____ I had to struggle in school with dyslexia. I was part of a polar expedition in 1986 and was the first woman to reach the North Pole.
11. ____ My teachers thought I was slow and a dreamer. I didn’t learn to read until I was nine. I couldn’t get into college until I spent an extra year in preparation. After many failed jobs, I developed the theory of relativity.
12. ____ Because my head was very large at birth, people thought I was abnormal. My mother took me out of school and taught me. As an adult, I created the electric light bulb and the phonograph.
13. ____ I was known as the “Queen” of physical comedy. I had severe rheumatoid arthritis as a young woman while working as a model. I went on to star and produce a hit comedy on television with my husband Desi Arnaz.
14. ____ I was born with Downs Syndrome and the doctors told my parents that I should be placed in an institution. My parents ignored the doctor’s advice and I grew up to be a television star and public speaker on disabilities. I played Corky on “Life Goes On.”
15. ____ I was known for playing Princess Leia in the Star Wars series. I have a mental illness called manic depression and now take daily medication to help me.

Adapted from Tools for Transition (1991). AGS American Guidance Service, Inc. Circle Pines, Minnesota 55014-1796.
 Permission to reproduce this form is hereby granted by the publisher.

Answers:

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. g | 6. e | 11. c |
| 2. d | 7. b | 12. a |
| 3. i | 8. l | 13. n |
| 4. f | 9. j | 14. m |
| 5. k | 10. h | 15. o |