



**1. Sir Frederick Banting (1891-1941)**

Frederick Banting was a Canadian surgeon who helped discover insulin. In 1921, Banting began working with a team of researchers at the University of Toronto. Their objective to identify a hormone that would control diabetes was met eight months after their work began. This discovery revolutionized the treatment of the disease. In 1923, Banting and his co-researcher John Macleod received the Nobel Prize in Medicine for their discovery.

**2. Cesar Estrada Chavez (1927-1993)**

Cesar Chavez was the driving force behind the unionization of California's migrant farm workers. He led groups in a nonviolent action to stand up for their rights as farm workers. His methods included boycotting produce, such as grapes and lettuce, until the farm workers were treated fairly and justly. In 1962, Chavez established the National Farm Workers Association, which grew to become the United Farm Workers of America in 1973.

**3. Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945)**

Franklin Roosevelt was the thirty-second president of the United States of America. He served as president for four terms, bringing the country through the Great Depression and Second World War. He led the government to take strong action in helping Americans recover from the economic hardships of the times. Roosevelt died shortly after his fourth term in office began.

**4. Nelson Mandela (1918- )**

Nelson Mandela served as South Africa's first black president from 1994 to 1999. Before becoming president, Mandela spent many years in prison for his participation in the fight against racial segregation. He was freed from jail in 1990 and went on to lead the discussions that ended apartheid in South Africa. In 1993, he won the Nobel Peace Prize for his contributions in establishing a nonracial government.

**5. Anne Frank (1929-1945)**

Anne Frank was a young German-Jewish girl who kept a diary of her experiences during the Nazi invasion. Anne lived with her family in Germany until the Nazis began persecuting Jews. They then moved to the Netherlands, where they went into hiding to avoid capture by the Nazis. Her family hid successfully for two years, during which Anne recorded her life and experiences. Her family was discovered by the Nazis and sent to concentration camps. Anne died in the camp. Her diary was published after her death.

**6. Theodor Seuss Geisel (1904-1991)**

Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss, was an American writer, cartoonist, and illustrator. He is best known for his extraordinary contributions to children's literature. His unique use of language and rhymes, as well as his fantastical illustrations and creations have made his books staples in classrooms across North America for generations.

**7. Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)**

Abraham Lincoln was the sixteenth president of the United States of America. During his presidency, he was tasked with leading the country through the Civil War and ensuring the American Union remained intact. His success in both tasks, as well as his contribution to ending the nation's slave trade, has made him one of the country's greatest historical figures. Lincoln was the first U.S. president to be assassinated.

**8. Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564)**

Michelangelo was an Italian painter, sculptor, architect, and poet who led the Italian Renaissance in a rebirth of art and learning. His paintings and sculptures often focused on the human body. Some of his most famous works are the Statue of David and the painted ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Michelangelo is known as one of the most famous artists in history.

**9. Woody Guthrie (1912-1967)**

Woody Guthrie was an American folk singer who traveled across his country, writing and performing songs in a traditional folk style. He wrote over 1,000 songs during his life and greatly influenced other folk singers of his time. Before dying from Huntington's disease, Guthrie was also a published author, poet, and artist.

**10. Andy Warhol (1928-1987)**

Andy Warhol was an American artist who helped define the Pop Art movement of the 1960's. Some of Warhol's most recognizable works are of famous people, such as Marilyn Monroe, and commercial images. Warhol used a technique called silk-screen printing to create his art.

**11. James Naismith (1861-1939)**

James Naismith was a Canadian-born physical education teacher who invented the game of basketball. The creation of the game was necessitated by his desire to create an indoor activity that spent the energy of his pupils. His game quickly caught on and has become one of the most popular sports in the world.

**12. Maya Angelou (1928- )**

Maya Angelou is an American author, poet, editor, composer, activist, and actress. Her first book, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, was an autobiographical story of a young black girl growing up during the Great Depression. Her first publication was highly acclaimed, and she has gone on to create many more bestselling, influential works that explore issues relating to the black experience.

**13. Aaron Copland (1900-1990)**

Aaron Copland was an American composer and conductor. He composed in a classical style, but incorporated popular music styles such as jazz and folk into his compositions, making his creations innovative and unique. He won a Pulitzer Prize for Music in 1945, and won an Academy Award for his music in 1949.

**14. Mary Cassatt (1844-1926)**

Mary Cassatt was an American-born painter who spent most of her adult life in France. Her painting style was greatly influenced by her close friend Edgar Degas, an impressionist painter. Cassatt began to paint in the impressionist style, and became a member of the French impressionist movement of the 1800's. Her paintings often focused on the relationships between mothers and their children.

**15. Frederick Douglass (1817-1895)**

Frederick Douglass was an African American who spent his life working for the abolition of slavery. When he was a young man, Douglass fled his life as a slave and began speaking about his experiences. He became a spokesperson for African Americans in the 1800's by founding an antislavery newspaper, helping with the Underground Railroad, and discussing the problems of slavery with President Lincoln.

**16. Margaret Atwood (1939- )**

Margaret Atwood is a novelist, poet, and critic who has made great contributions to Canadian literature. Her work often examines feminist issues, as well as touches on the Canadian experience in writing and culture. Her works have received many prestigious awards, making her one of Canada's most successful writers.

**17. Nikola Tesla (1856-1943)**

Nikola Tesla was an inventor and electrical engineer who pioneered electrical technology with his alternating current (AC) system. Using his AC technology, Tesla created generators, motors, and transformers to help produce and control electricity. His inventions continue to be used in modern electrical systems.

**18. Grace Hopper (1906-1992)**

Grace Hopper was an American computer scientist who led the creation of the Common Business Oriented Language, known as COBOL. COBOL is one of the most commonly used computer programming languages. Until the creation of COBOL, computer programming languages had been complicated and hard to learn. Her contributions to computer technology have made computers accessible to a wider range of people.

**19. Christa McAuliffe (1948-1986)**

Christa McAuliffe was selected as a civilian mission specialist for the first NASA Teacher in Space Project in 1985. She was selected from over 10,000 applicants. She trained and prepared to be part of the Challenger space shuttle mission. On January 28, 1986, the Challenger shuttle launched, but exploded shortly after takeoff. Many scholarships have been named in her honor.