

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_

# Charles Dickens

## Web Quest



1812

In the upcoming weeks, we will begin our reading of Charles Dickens's famous story A Christmas Carol. Charles Dickens was an extremely important figure in literature and it is important to understand his life in order to understand his writing. Through this web quest you will find many interesting facts about Dickens, such as Dickens's father was put in jail after not paying his bills when Charles was only twelve years old.

To answer questions about Charles Dickens, you will need to navigate the following website:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/famouspeople/charles\\_dickens/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/famouspeople/charles_dickens/)

There are videos to preview, a timeline of events, fun facts, and even a game you can play to learn about this author. Have fun!

### Why is Charles Dickens Famous?

1. What time period did Charles Dickens live through and what did he write about?
2. Explain what a "serial" is and how it is related to Charles Dickens.
3. What was the name of the Queen who was reigning when Charles Dickens was writing his stories?

### Early Life

4. What is Charles Dickens's full name and on what day, month, date, and year was he born?
5. Where was Charles Dickens born?
6. What is the *Royal Navy*?
7. What was Charles's father's job?

8. How many siblings did Charles have?
9. What is the meaning of the phrase “hard times” and what did it mean for the Dickens’ family?
10. Where did Dickens’s family move to in 1822?
11. What happened to Dickens’s father because he didn’t pay his bills?
12. What did Charles have to do when he was 12 years old?

### **Dickens the Writer**

13. What was Dickens’s “pen name”?
14. Who did Charles Dickens marry and when did he marry her?
15. When did he sell his first stories and what were they called?
16. What is a workhouse?
17. What were some of the jobs that poor children had during the Victorian Era?
18. Describe what London was like in the 1830’s.

### **Dickens the Celebrity**

19. What did Dickens like to do around London (he was able to get inspiration from his stories by doing this)?
20. When did Dickens visit America?
21. Besides reading Dickens’s novels, how else might they *hear* his stories?
22. What are the names of 3 famous novels that Charles Dickens wrote?
23. Why did people during the Victorian Era like long novels?
24. How many children did Charles and his wife have?

25. What happens in 1857 that changes Dickens's family life?

### **What Happened To Dickens**

26. How did England change during the Industrial Revolution?

27. What did Dickens want to do for people with his stories?

28. How did the pictures in Dickens's novels help people?

29. What happened to Charles Dickens in 1864? What was his girlfriend's name?

30. Where and when did Charles Dickens die? Where is he buried?

**Timeline:** Using the timeline on the website, answer the following questions

31. When was *A Christmas Carol* published?

32. When was *A Tale of Two Cities* published?

**Fun Facts:** Using the fun facts arrows on the website, answer the following questions

33. What annoyed Charles Dickens about America?

34. What happened more often after *A Christmas Carol* was published?

35. What did the word "Scrooge" come to mean?

**When you are done the webquest, take the Dickens's quiz and then play the game "What the Dickens".**