



Ladislao Biro

GENRE information text

READING STRATEGIES skimming; scanning; detailed reading

QUESTION FORM questions requiring answers in complete sentences; true/false

UNDERSTANDING TESTED questions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 - literal; questions 6, 9, 10 - deductive

1 Where was Ladislao Biro born?

He was born in Hungary.

(1 mark)

2 How did working as a magazine editor help him to invent the biro?

He saw quick-drying inks used for printing magazines and this gave him the idea of using these inks in pens.

(1 mark)

3 Why did he sell his invention in 1944?

He sold his invention because he hadn't got the money to manufacture and market it on a large scale himself.

(2 marks)

4 Which French firm still manufactures his invention?

The French firm Bic still produces the pen he invented.

(2 marks)

5 Find four reasons in the passage for the popularity of ballpoint pens.

Accept any four from: ballpoint pens don't leak; the ink is quick-drying/doesn't smudge/doesn't need blotting; the pens are cheap; they are easy to carry; they are disposable; they don't have to be refilled.

(2 marks)

6 Is it true that Ladislao Biro made a huge fortune out of his invention?

No, it is false.

(1 mark)

7 In what year did Ladislao Biro leave Hungary?

He left Hungary in 1939.

(1 mark)

8 What happened to Biro's invention in 1943?

It began to be manufactured in 1943.

(1 mark)

9 "Biro sank into obscurity in South America". Explain in your own words what this means.

It means that Biro lived a quiet, private life in South America so no one knew where he was. (2 marks)

10 "His name has become a household word." Explain in your own words what this means.

This means that his name, "Biro", has become a word that everyone knows and uses because he gave his name to his invention and now ballpoint pens are also called bios. (2 marks)

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