

Mother Teresa



In this lesson, you will read about a world-famous Catholic nun. You'll learn and practice new vocabulary and discuss charity work. Let's start with a group discussion.

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Have you heard of Mother Teresa?
If so, what do you know about her?
2. Do you know where Macedonia is?
If not, look at a world map and locate it.
3. Have you ever been to India?
4. Have you heard of the disease called "leprosy"?
If so, what do you know about it?
5. What is the Nobel Peace Prize?
Can you name any recipients of this prize?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

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|------------------|--|
| ___ 1. nun | a) to show respect |
| ___ 2. order | b) a place where religious or charitable work is done |
| ___ 3. charity | c) to operate, to manage |
| ___ 4. vow | d) a woman who is a member of a religious order |
| ___ 5. dedicated | e) a ceremony and burial of a dead person |
| ___ 6. orphanage | f) a promise |
| ___ 7. hospice | g) having a very modest or simple opinion of oneself |
| ___ 8. mission | h) a religious group |
| ___ 9. inspire | i) a place for children who have no parents or guardians to live |
| ___ 10. run | j) to give feelings, thoughts, or confidence to someone |
| ___ 11. humble | k) help for the poor, the sick, children, etc. |
| ___ 12. honor | l) a place for very sick and dying people to live |
| ___ 13. funeral | m) given or set apart for a special purpose |

Reading

1. Mother Teresa was a Catholic **nun** who helped the poor, the sick, and the dying in India and around the world.
2. She was born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu on August 27, 1910, in what is now Macedonia. At age 18, she joined the Sisters of Loreto, a Catholic **order** in Dublin, Ireland, to become a nun. The Sisters also did **charity** work in India. Two years later, in 1930, they sent her to Calcutta to teach in a high school.
3. When she took her final religious **vows** in 1937, she took the name “Teresa” in honor of St. Teresa of Lisieux.
4. In 1948, Mother Teresa became an Indian citizen. She also left the high school and the Sisters of Loreto to start her own religious order. She called it the Missionaries of Charity. It was **dedicated** to helping Calcutta’s poorest people.
5. By the 1960s, Mother Teresa and her nuns had set up **orphanages** for children, **hospices** for the dying, and homes for those with leprosy all over India. In 1965, they began to open **missions** in other countries, including the United States.
6. Many people were **inspired** by Mother Teresa. The Missionaries of Charity includes more than 4,000 nuns and more than 100,000 volunteers who help the nuns **run** schools, hospitals, orphanages, and food centers in over 120 countries. Many more people give money to support their work.
7. Mother Teresa received several international awards for her charity work, including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. Rich and famous people often came to Calcutta to meet her. Yet she remained a **humble**, simple person who always wore a plain, white sari with a blue border.
8. Mother Teresa died on September 5, 1997. The government of India **honored** her with a state **funeral**. In October 2003, Pope John Paul II named her “Blessed Mother Teresa.” On September 4, 2016, Pope Francis made Mother Teresa a saint of the Catholic Church.

*“If you judge people,
you have no time
to love them.”*

—Mother Teresa

Comprehension

A. True or False?

Read the statements below.

If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence.

If it is false, write F and correct the information.

- _____ 1. Mother Teresa was born in India.
- _____ 2. Mother Teresa was an Indian citizen.
- _____ 3. Mother Teresa was once a teacher.
- _____ 4. Mother Teresa's religious order works only in India.
- _____ 5. The Indian government respected Mother Teresa.

B. Ask and Answer

Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner.

Then write your answers in complete sentences in your notebook.

1. What did Mother Teresa do when she first went to India?
2. What was the name of the first religious order Mother Teresa joined?
What was the name of the order she started?
3. What was the main goal of Mother Teresa's religious order?
4. What had Mother Teresa and her order accomplished by the 1960s?
5. What do the Missionaries of Charity do today?
6. What kind of person was Mother Teresa?
7. How did the Indian government honor Mother Teresa after her death?
8. What did Pope Francis do in 2016 regarding Mother Teresa?

Vocabulary Review

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1.
You may need to change the word forms.

1. When a man and woman get married, they make a _____ to love each other forever.
2. He has _____ his whole life to helping sick people and poor people.
3. When the president of the company got sick, he asked his son to _____ the business for him.
4. When her parents died, she went to live with her aunt and uncle. They didn't want her to live in an _____ .
5. The teacher wants to _____ her students to work hard.

Discussion

1. Do you ever do charity work?
If so, what kind of charity work do you do?
2. Why do you think so many people were inspired by Mother Teresa?
3. Is it common in your country for people who are dying to spend their last few weeks or months in hospices, or do most people remain in the hospital or at home?
4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of spending the last few weeks of life at hospices, hospitals, or home?
5. Why do you think so many rich and famous people wanted to meet Mother Teresa, who was such a simple, humble person?

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

In this lesson, students read about the world-famous nun who helped people around the world. Your class will discuss charity work and talk about the differences between hospices and hospitals.

LEVEL: Int

TIME: 1.5–2 hours

TAGS: Mother Teresa, charity, peace, health, hospitals, nun, Catholic, religion

Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

- 1–3. Answers will vary.
- Leprosy is a serious infectious disease that attacks the skin and nerves. It occurs most often in warm and wet areas in the tropics and subtropics. Throughout history, people have considered leprosy to be a terrible disease and people with this illness have been kept in separate, isolated places far away from healthy people.
 - The Nobel Peace Prize is given for special achievements in humanitarian work, peace efforts, work in the area of human rights, etc. (The Dalai Lama, Nelson Mandela, Mikhail Gorbachev, Jimmy Carter, and Mother Teresa are just a few examples of the many recipients of this award.)

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

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

Comprehension

A. TRUE OR FALSE?

- F – Mother Teresa was born in Macedonia.
- T
- T
- F – Mother Teresa’s religious order works in over 120 countries.
- T

B. ASK AND ANSWER

- She taught in a high school.

- The first religious order she joined was called the Sisters of Loreto. Her own religious order was called the Missionaries of Charity.
- The main goal of her order was to help the poorest people of Calcutta.
- By the 1960s, Mother Teresa and her order had set up orphanages for children, hospices for the dying and homes for people with leprosy.
- The Missionaries of Charity run schools, hospitals, orphanages, and food centers all over the world.
- She was a very humble, simple person who devoted her life to helping people.
- The Indian government honored Mother Teresa with a state funeral. (A state funeral is usually only held for government leaders.)
- On September 4, 2016, Pope Francis made Mother Teresa a saint of the Catholic Church.

Vocabulary Review

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| 1. vow | 3. run | 5. inspire |
| 2. dedicated | 4. orphanage | |

Discussion

Answers will vary. Discuss as a class, in groups, or in pairs.

SPELLING NOTES:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the words *Honor*, *Center*, and *Practice*. Most other English-speaking countries spell these words this way: *Honour*, *Centre*, and *Practise* (when used as a verb; *Practice* when used as a noun). Make it a challenge for your students to find these words in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spellings.