

Little People, BIG DREAMS

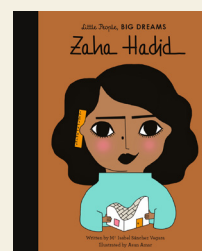
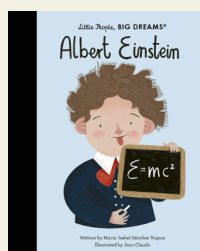
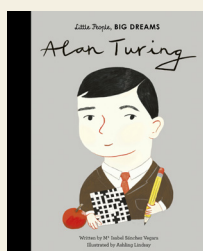
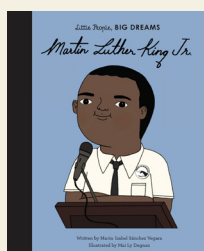
# Teacher's Notes

## Incredible Thinkers – Teacher's Notes

Depending on the age of the children, the following lessons can take place over more sessions than are outlined in the notes. The activities are pitched at those aged Key Stage 1 and lower Key Stage 2 but can be adapted across the primary curriculum to suit the needs and ages of the children in your setting. Learning in this area is not designed to be specifically taught, but to create flexible cross-curricular opportunities such as English, particularly guided reading and writing, history, science, PSHE and art.

By using these books and following the suggested activities, children will be able to:

- Offer suggestions as to what an incredible thinker is.
- Understand that when people have new, exciting ideas many people will benefit from them.
- Understand that people from all cultures, races, religious groups, sexual orientations and genders are capable of having original thoughts.
- Understand that for many incredible thinkers, perseverance and hard work have been necessary for success.
- Recall and discuss key events from the lives of those discussed.
- Offer suggestions as to other famous people who might be added to the list.



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## Discussion and comprehension

Before looking at the books, ask the children what they think they're about, and what they notice about the covers. Do they think the books are fiction or non-fiction – why? Then read the books – you might like to ask the children to choose in what order you share them – and prompt discussion by asking the following questions, encouraging readers to take turns and give full answers. Offer support by showing the appropriate pages where helpful.

- What did you like about the books?
- Is there anything you didn't like about them? Why?
- How are the books similar to one another?
- Had you heard of any of these people before we shared the books?
- Do you know anything about any of them that's not in their book?
- What can you tell me about these people?
- Do the six individuals in the books have anything in common? If so, what?
- How are they different from one another?
- How have their ideas changed the world around us?
- Have all of the changes been good changes?
- What makes someone an incredible thinker?
- Can you think of anyone else, living or dead, who might have had such brilliant ideas that they could be included on the list?
- All of the life stories included in these books start when the individuals were young children and something that happened, or something they were given, inspired them. Can you think of anything from your own life that has started a real interest you have in something?
- What do you want to be when you grow up? Will this job be of benefit to other people?
- For several of our thinkers, school was tricky - they didn't get the chance to go to school regularly, they found it hard to fit in, or their teachers didn't encourage them. How important do you think school is? Do you think learning only happens in school?

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## Activities

### Design a poster

Choose one of the people you have looked at and think about what their greatest achievement was and how this is important today. Create a poster to share this information about them with other people in your school – maybe your teacher could use your class’s artwork for a display in your classroom or school library.

### Create your own Incredible Thinker book

Find out about key points from the life of another Incredible Thinker such as where and how they were educated, what they are best known for, and what made them interested in this. If you are studying a particular history topic, you might want to find out about someone from that time period or you might want to look at the life of a scientist to fit in with your learning there. You might have some books in your classroom or library to help you or you might be lucky enough to be able to search online. Use your facts to help you make a book that could be a part of the Little People, BIG DREAMS series, not forgetting to make your pictures bright and colourful and including details to interest your reader.

### Where in the world?

On a world map, find the places that our Incredible Thinkers were born and lived their lives – you might need to do some additional research using books or the internet to help you. If you came up with some names for other people who are Incredible Thinkers, you could add them on too. If you have time, with your teacher’s help, you could also try to find some people from some of the countries that you haven’t got Incredible Thinkers for.

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## Codebreaker

Alan Turing's work on maths and codebreaking not only changed the outcome of WWII but it paved the way for the computers we use today – at home, in school and to help people like Mae Jemison travel into space, architects like Zaha Hadid produce their incredible building designs or physicists like Albert Einstein learn more about the world around us and beyond. While the codes Alan Turing looked at were very hard to understand, we can use more simple ones to write secret messages, for example by using numbers to represent the letters of the alphabet. Here, A = 1, B = 2, C = 3 etc.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Can you understand the message that has been written here and write one for a friend to decode?

Message: 9-14-3-18-5-4-9-2-12-5 20-8-9-14-11-5-18-19

## Drama: Making the world a kinder place

Several of the Incredible Thinkers faced difficulties in their lives because of who they were. For example Martin Luther King was Black and faced segregation as a result, Mary Anning lived at a time when girls and women didn't have the same opportunities as boys and men, and Alan Turing was a member of the LGBTQ+ community when being gay was against the law. Each of us is different from those around us and we are all equally as important as one another but, sadly, some people still face prejudice from others. Can you think of ways we can help those who might be discriminated against to have the same opportunities as everyone else? In threes/small groups, think of a situation when one of our Incredible Thinkers might have been unfairly treated and how it could be resolved so they were treated fairly. Don't forget to use kind words, as you would do in any other drama activity in class.