

# Hot Celebrity Biographies

## Introduction

This Teacher's Guide helps students become familiar with the characteristics of biography as they examine expository text structures and features. In this series, students will read engaging, high-interest material about contemporary celebrities. These biographies follow the lives of these actors and singers by describing how they rose to fame but still held onto their values and personal beliefs.

## National Standards

This series supports Language Arts, Health and Physical Education curriculum. Go to [www.enslowclassroom.com](http://www.enslowclassroom.com) and click on the Curriculum Correlations tab. Click on your state, grade level, and curriculum standard to display how any book in this series backs up your state's specific curriculum standard.

## Classroom Activities

Activities for teaching the five curriculum areas: Reading/Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and the Arts can be found in this Teacher's Guide. Students will learn about the characteristics of biography and examine the text features found in this genre. Activities in Math, Science, Social Studies and the Arts will provide students the opportunity to apply information from the book to the concepts and skills found in these content areas.

## Guided Reading Level: S

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## Teacher's Guide for *Selena Gomez: Latina TV and Music Star*

Selena Gomez began acting at the age of seven, and has continued to develop her talents in acting and music, as her career grew more successful. She's been featured on both television shows and movies and has released several albums. While pursuing her professional endeavors she strives to stay connected to her spirituality and be actively involved in charities that are important to her.

Share the information below with your students in preparation for reading *Selena Gomez: Latina TV and Music Star*.

### Biographies

Biographies are nonfiction stories written about someone else's life. They are often written about someone famous who has made an important contribution to society. Authors must research the person they are writing about by conducting interviews and reading other sources. Authors collect this information so they can include the important facts that describe what this person is like. Characteristics of this genre may include:

- Place of birth and death
- Information about family and upbringing
- Influences
- Significant events, such as problems or obstacles they overcame
- Goals and accomplishments

Additional ideas for teaching about biographies can be found at this Web site:  
<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/teachers/>

### Expository Text Structures and Features

Expository text is nonfiction material that serves to inform, explain, describe or persuade by using facts and details. Familiarizing students with the characteristics of expository text can help deepen comprehension and critical thinking skills. Expository text can have many different structures, such as chronological order, compare and contrast, and cause and effect. Many biographies, including the ones in this series, are arranged in chronological, or sequential, order. There are a variety of text features used in expository text:

- **Captions:** Written material that accompanies and further explains or describes a graphic aid
- **Glossary:** a section at the end of the book that defines terms found within the material
- **Graphic aids:** Visual items that usually supplement written material, such as photos, charts, and timelines
- **Headings and subheadings:** Words or phrases that introduce and tell you what a section will be about
- **Index:** an alphabetical listing of where topics and terms are located in the book.
- **Sidebar:** Supplemental information placed next to a longer piece of writing.
- **Table of Contents:** an outline found at the beginning of a book that shows the parts of the book in the order they appear

Additional information about expository text structures and features can be found at this Web site:  
<http://www.wawm.k12.wi.us/District%20Information/Pupil%20Services/support/ContentAreaLitExpositoryText.htm>

## The Five Curriculum Activities

### SAFETY WARNING

Before any activity, make sure your students do not have any allergies to items that you might use. Never use anything that is sharp or may cut a student. Do not use anything too hot or cold which might injure any student. Always have an adult supervise all activities to ensure the safety of your students and provide an appropriate setting, such as a gym or outdoor space, for physical activities.

### Reading/Language Arts activity

Review the “Glossary” on page 47. Inform students that the purpose of a glossary is to provide definitions for terms (in alphabetical order) that are specific to the book. Read each word and its definition in the glossary and discuss how each term is related to Selena Gomez. Then, have students use each word in a sentence about Selena. Encourage students to write descriptive sentences that demonstrate the meaning of the word. Provide the following example for students:

*Accomplished—highly skilled and talented*

*Selena Gomez is a very accomplished singer because she has successfully made five albums.*

### Math activity

Selena Gomez is a multitalented entertainer. She has worked in music, television and film. Have students review her “Filmography” and “Discography” on pages 45-6. Students should use this information to make a pie chart that represents the various media she works in (singles, albums, television, cinema). Review the process for making a pie chart by showing how to calculate percentages and remind students to include labels and titles for the chart.

### Science activity

Selena Gomez has starred in several movies and has started her own production company to give more control over her movies. Our contemporary movie industry began with some very early inventions. One such invention, the camera obscura, dates back to 300 B.C. The camera obscura works by allowing light to enter a small opening and then projects an image on an opposite wall. A smaller hole will make the image sharper and a larger hole will make the image brighter. Discuss the principles of a camera obscura and make one with your class by following the instruction at this Web site: <http://licm.org.uk/livingImage/CameraObscura.html>  
(Materials needed: cardboard box, scissors, tracing paper, pencil)

### Social Studies activity

Selena Gomez is of Mexican descent but grew up in Texas. For a period of time Texas was considered to be a part of Mexico, until the Mexican-American War. At the time, many Americans believed in Manifest Destiny, which is the idea that the U.S. should spread democracy by expanding the boundaries of our country. Have students explore how Manifest Destiny and other factors led to the Mexican-American War by investigating this Web site:  
<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/articles/ushistory/mexicanamericanwar1.htm>

Have students use the information from this site to create a timeline of events that occurred before, during and after the war. Make sure student include prominent figures and pivotal battles that played a role in the war.

**Arts activity**

Selena Gomez is proud of her Mexican heritage and wants to represent Latinas in Hollywood (page 36). Another strong woman who was Mexican was artist Frieda Kahlo. Explore her painting *Self-portrait on the Borderline Between Mexico and the United States* by rolling over it to read commentary about it:

<http://www.pbs.org/weta/fridakahlo/worksofart/borderline.html>

Discuss with students what the images in the painting suggest about the artist. What message is the artist sending? How does she view herself and her world?

## Handout

- Read Chapter 5 “Staying Grounded” on pages 34-40.
- Create your own glossary of important words from the chapter. Include at least five words from the chapter.
- Use a dictionary if you need help figuring out definitions but be sure to use your own words for the definitions in your glossary.

## Assessment

1. What would Selena Gomez want to be if she weren't a singer and actress?
  - A. a lawyer
  - B. a doctor
  - C. a teacher
  - D. a chef
2. On what show did Selena Gomez have her first acting job?
  - A. "Barney & Friends"
  - B. "The Suite Life of Zach and Cody"
  - C. "Sonny With a Chance"
  - D. "Hannah Montana"
3. Which of the following organizations that Selena Gomez works with focuses on the environment?
  - A. Runway for Life
  - B. UR Vote Counts
  - C. Friends for Change
  - D. DoSomething.org
4. When did Selena Gomez' clothing line first come out?
  - A. 2009
  - B. 2010
  - C. 2008
  - D. 2007

5. Read the following sentence from the book.

*As a UNICEF ambassador, Selena uses her star power to raise money.*

What is the meaning of *ambassador* as it is used in this sentence?

- A. member
- B. representative
- C. organization
- D. employee

6. Read the sentence below from the book.

*She went on to say, “I consult them about everything I do, especially because my mom is my manager.*

The word *consult* comes from the French meaning *to counsel*. You can conclude that, as the word is used here, *consult* means to

- A. schedule with.
- B. discuss with.
- C. agree with.
- D. join with.

7. Read the sentence below from the book.

*When confronted about the rumors on KIIS-FM by Ryan Seacrest, Selena said, “Well, he’s an amazing guy.*

Which word is an antonym of *confronted* as it is used in this context?

- A. forget
- B. puzzled
- C. sidestep
- D. discover

8. Why is Selena Gomez described as a “triple threat” on page13?

- A. Because she can act, sing, and dance.
- B. Because she has made three albums.
- C. Because three is her favorite number.
- D. Because she had made three movies.

9. How does Selena Gomez feel about her heritage?

- A. She worked with many charities, but now only focuses on working with Latino charities.
- B. It was important for her to be in only Spanish films, but now she is in American films too.
- C. It used to make her feel different, but now she realizes it is an asset.
- D. She didn’t want to learn Spanish at first, but now she speaks fluently.

10. According to information in the book, what shows that the environment is important to Selena Gomez?

- A. Her involvement with Borden Milk.
- B. Her T-shirt design for DoSomething.org.
- C. Her clothing line is eco-friendly.
- D. Her participation in tree-planting programs.



**Answer Key:**

1. D. Selena says would want to attend culinary school to become a chef (page 40).
2. A. Selena acted on “Barney & Friends” from 2002-2003.
3. C. Disney’s Friends for Change encourages fans to vote on which “green” programs Disney should invest in (page 32).
4. B. Selena’s clothing line, “Dream Out Loud,” came out in August 2010 (page 43).
5. B. An *ambassador* is a representative of an organization.
6. B. *Consult* means to discuss or ask the advice or opinion of someone.
7. C. *Confronted*, in this context, means to be faced or challenged with something; the opposite of this is *sidestep*.
8. A. A *triple threat* refers to someone who is an expert in three fields.
9. C. Selena realized she was able to get many roles because of her Mexican roots (page 36).
10. C. Selena shows her concern through the environment in many ways, one of which is by making her clothing line eco-friendly.