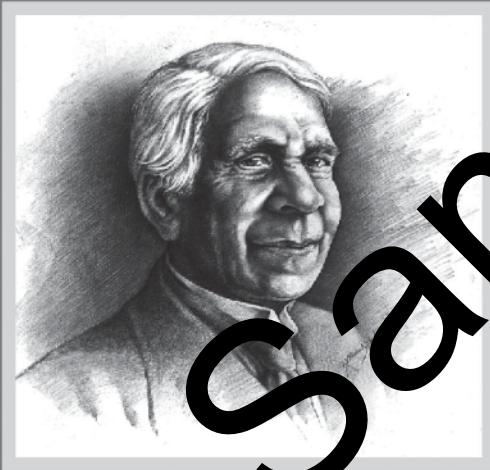


Legendary Australians

Inspirational, Inventive and Infamous Australians



Sample



By Lauren Princi

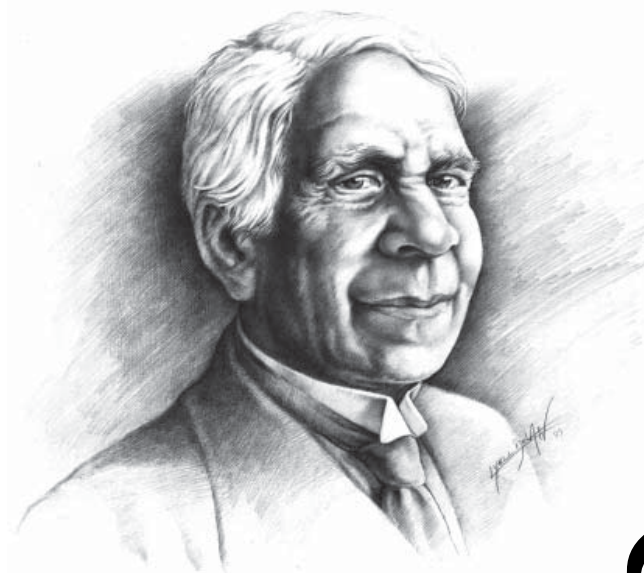
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David Unaipon

Do you know whose picture is on the Australian fifty dollar note? No? Well it's a very special man by the name of David Unaipon. David was an amazing inventor as well as the first Aboriginal person in Australia to write a book and get it published.



David Unaipon, courtesy of Reserve Bank of Australia. www.rba.gov.au

He was born in 1872 in a South Australian mission, the fourth of nine children. David had gone to school on the mission and could read and write very well. When he left the mission he became a servant to C.B. Young who encouraged him to learn about science and music.

He is sometimes known as Australia's 'Leonardo' because he had wonderful ideas, just like the great Italian artist Leonardo da Vinci. Can you believe that David drew designs for a helicopter based on the idea of a boomerang? And this was before helicopters were even invented! It's amazing to think that almost 400 years before Leonardo had also drawn a picture of a helicopter.

In 1909 he invented a machine for shearing sheep and then spent the rest of his life trying to make life better for Aboriginal people – writing books about Aboriginal legends and looking for the answers to all of his scientific questions.

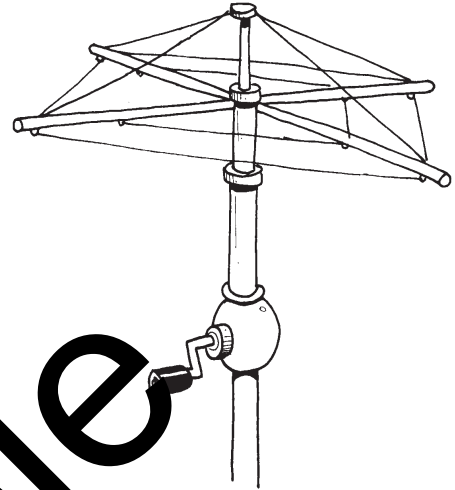
It's sad to think that there were times in David's life when he was not treated very well, just because he was an Aboriginal person. There were those that believed Aboriginal people were not as smart as white people, but David proved them wrong.

In 1995 David's face appeared on our fifty dollar note when Australian money was changed from paper to a type of plastic called polymer. This in itself was another world first. David died on 7 February, 1967 and was buried in the Point McLeay cemetery in South Australia.



Swinging on the Hills Hoist

One of the reasons why the Hills Hoist was so popular was because it could hold four nappies on each of the four outer wires. Would this be important for people nowadays? Why or why not?



Imagine That

If, a thousand years from now, people dug up a Hills Hoist, what are three things they might think it was used for?

- ---

- ---

- ---

Don't stop
imagining
until I say ...

Choose three more everyday objects and do the same. Imagine what people might think they are used for in the future. *For example an egg beater could be a musical instrument.*

- ---

- ---

- ---

Dr David Warren and the Black Box

Fill in the missing words:

1. David Warren's father was killed in a plane crash in _____.
2. He first thought of recording pilots' conversations when he was working at the _____ in Melbourne.
3. It took _____ for David to design and build the black box flight recorder.
4. As well as recording the voices of the pilots, it also recorded information like _____ and _____.
5. Australia was not very interested in his invention so he flew to _____ where it was well received.
6. The original name of the black box was _____. It was changed by a _____ during an interview.

Think About It

What do you think these pilots might be saying to each other as they realise their plane is about to crash?

Beautiful Body Parts

We have already read about the bionic ear that was developed by Professor Graeme Clarke, but what else can be replaced by bionic parts? Well, believe it or not there are many people living in the world today with a mechanical heart! The heart is made of titanium and plastic and can pump more than 10 litres of blood per minute.

These people have been given the replacement hearts while they wait for a heart transplant from a donor.

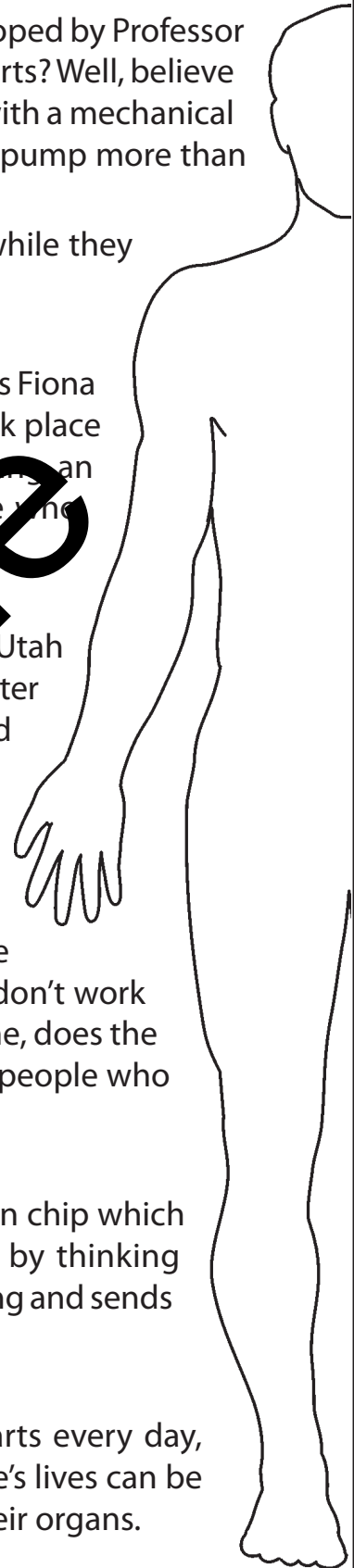
The first Australian person to receive a heart transplant was Fiona Coote who was just 14 years old when the operation took place in 1967. Fiona's operation was performed by Dr. Victor Chang, an amazing doctor who was sadly killed in 1991 by people who wanted money from him.

Many people have received prosthetic arms and legs. The 'Utah arm' can even move like a real arm with the help of a computer and long lasting batteries. Prosthetic hips can be implanted in people who suffer from painful arthritis and sometimes real hands and feet can be attached to people who have lost theirs in an accident.

Most people have two kidneys in their body which are responsible for cleaning the blood. If a person's kidneys don't work like they should, a special bionic kidney which is a machine, does the work for them. This is called dialysis and is life saving for people who are waiting for a kidney transplant from an organ donor.

Amazingly, scientists have been working on a bionic brain chip which helps people who can't move to do simple things just by thinking about them. The chip understands what the brain is thinking and sends messages to robotic body parts to move.

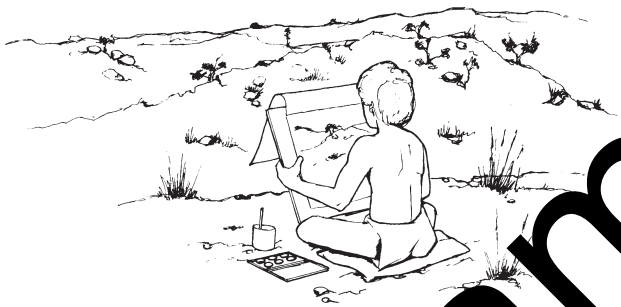
Doctors and scientists are busy designing new body parts every day, however it's important to remember that up to 10 people's lives can be saved or improved from one person who has donated their organs.



Albert Namatjira

List the three most important facts you have learnt about Albert.

- _____
- _____
- _____



Who taught Albert how to paint?

How were Albert's paintings different from traditional Aboriginal paintings?

Creative Corner

Draw an example of traditional Aboriginal art and a painting that you think would look like Albert's work.

Rock On Even More?

Design a stage costume for when you perform in front of large crowds. Don't forget to draw a funky hairstyle and makeup (if you need it).



Tunetastic!

Read the first verse of 'Waltzing Matilda' below.

*Once a jolly swagman camped by a billabong,
Under the shade of a coolibah tree.
And he sang as he watched and waited till his billy
boiled,
Who'll come a Waltzing Matilda with me?*

Rewrite a 'rock' version that you can perform on stage. *E.g. Once a crazy rocker pumped up the volume.*

► Stage Costume

Sample