

1. Read the biography. When did Frida Kahlo start painting?

A Portrait of Frida Kahlo (1907–1954)



Frida Kahlo de Rivera was born in Coyoacán, a small town just outside Mexico City. From a young age, she had health problems.

When she was six, she had a disease called polio. After this, her right leg was thinner than her left leg. In 1925, she had an accident.

She was traveling on a bus and it hit a trolley car. She broke bones in her back and her neck, she hurt her shoulder and her right leg, and she broke her right foot. Doctors amputated her right leg some years later.

Before the accident, Kahlo was studying to be a doctor. While she was recovering from the accident, she spent a lot of time painting and she decided to become an artist. She had special equipment and she painted in bed. She liked to use bright colors and her paintings often show her injuries. She painted 143 pictures and 55 are self-portraits.

She was a famous artist but she also inspired other people. There was a movie about her, she was a character in a novel, people wrote plays, opera, jazz and classical music about her. You can see her paintings in art galleries around the world.

2. Understand meaning from context Complete each statement.

amputate a leg equipment inspire recovering trolley car

1. A trolley car _____ is a vehicle that uses electricity to travel on the roads and carry passengers like a bus.
2. If doctors _____, they remove it from the body.
3. _____ is things you need to do a certain activity.
4. _____ means getting better.
5. If you _____ people, you make them want to do things.

3. Scan for information Choose the correct answer.

1. Polio caused problems with Frida Kahlo's ...
 - a. back.
 - b. right foot.
 - c. right leg.
 - d. left leg.
2. In 1925, Frida Kahlo was traveling on a bus and it hit ...
 - a. a car.
 - b. a trolley car.
 - c. a bike.
 - d. a pedestrian.
3. In the accident, Frida Kahlo broke bones in her ...
 - a. back, neck, and right foot.
 - b. right leg.
 - c. left leg.
 - d. shoulder.
4. Before the accident, Frida Kahlo wanted to be ...
 - a. an artist.
 - b. a musician.
 - c. a doctor.
 - d. a writer.
5. Almost one third of Frida Kahlo's paintings are of ...
 - a. her mother.
 - b. her father.
 - c. her doctor.
 - d. herself.
6. Frida Kahlo ...
 - a. wrote books and plays, too.
 - b. appears in books, plays, an opera, and a movie.
 - c. wrote classical music.
 - d. enjoyed listening to jazz music.