



People

Aldous Huxley

1894–1963



Author and screenwriter Aldous Huxley is best known for his 1932 novel *Brave New World*, a nightmarish vision of the future.

Aldous Huxley was born into a prominent intellectual family in Godalming, England, in 1894. From an early age, Huxley envisioned a future career in science. However, after a serious illness left him partially blind as a youth, Huxley abandoned his dreams of becoming a scientist to pursue a literary career. He remained partially blind for the rest of his life and read with great difficulty.

In 1916 he graduated with honors from Balliol College at Oxford University and published a collection of poems. Five years later he

published his debut novel *Crome Yellow*, a parody of the intelligentsia, which brought him his first taste of success. Although the book's publication in 1921 angered many of his Garsington acquaintances, it also established Huxley as an important writer and sold well enough to allow him to pursue his literary destiny. While traveling about Europe with his family for the next several years, Huxley produced the commercially successful novels *Antic Hay* (1923), *Those Barren Leaves* (1925) and *Point Counter Point* (1928), which, like *Crome*, were satires of contemporary society and conventional morality. Huxley's greatest work, however, was still to come.

Published in 1932, *Brave New World* marks the apogee of Huxley's abilities as a satirist. A dark vision of the future, it is widely regarded as one of the greatest novels of the 20th century. Set in London in 2540, the 7th century After Ford, *Brave New World* presents a future in which genetically engineered babies are produced on assembly lines, the social and economic divide between the haves and the have nots is legally enforced and

discontent is quelled by advertising, medication, sex and entertainment. Now, nearly a century from the novel's publication, among its prophecies that have come to pass are the rise of dictatorial governments, in vitro fertilization, genetic cloning, virtual reality, antidepressants and the invention of the helicopter. The novel proved to be a massive critical and commercial success, cementing Huxley's place as one of the most important writers of the era.

Huxley followed *Brave New World* with the 1936 novel *Eyeless in Giza*, which showed his blossoming interest in Eastern philosophy and mysticism. The following year, he left Europe for North America, where he completed a work on pacifism titled *Ends and Means*, and in 1938 he settled in Los Angeles, California, where he would spend most of the rest of his life. During this time, Huxley added screenwriter to his long list of occupations and was paid handsomely by studios for his work. Among his more notable film credits are *Pride and Prejudice* (1940), *Jane Eyre* (1943) and *Madame Curie* (1943).

Huxley died of cancer in Los Angeles, California, in 1963 at the age of 69, having written more than 50 books, including one of the most significant of the 20th century, as well as innumerable works of criticism, poetry and drama. But despite his immense literary stature, his passing went largely unnoticed at the time, occurring as it did on the same day that President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

Source of the text: An Illustrated History Of The USA (Bryn O'Callaghan)
Source of the images: various sites found with the help of Google

William Turner

1775–1851



Famous works: Fishermen at Sea; Rain, Steam, and Speed; The Fighting Temeraire; Dido Building Carthage.

Style/Period: Romanticism, Landscape.

Joseph Mallord William Turner was born above his father's barber shop in London, England on April 23, 1775. Joseph began to sketch pictures when he was a young boy. He enjoyed drawing outside pictures, especially buildings. Some of his drawings were sold from his father's shop.

When he was just fourteen years old he began to attend the Royal Academy of Art in London. He continued to sketch and work with water colors. Many of his sketches appeared in magazines. While he mostly sketched buildings

and architecture, he also started to draw some pictures of the sea.

Turner painted his first oil painting in 1796. It was called Fishermen at Sea. Critics loved the painting and Turner gained a national reputation as a talented artist. Many compared his works to that of other famous painters.



Turner was fascinated by the power of God in scenes of nature, especially the ocean and the sun. He would make many sketches in numbered notebooks and then use those for reference when he painted in his studio. He would often place people in his paintings, but they would be small and insignificant when compared to the power of nature around them.

As Turner's work continued to mature, he paid less attention to detail and more to the energy of the natural phenomenon he was painting such as the sea, a storm, a fire, or the sun. The objects in the paintings became less recognizable.



One example of this is the painting Rain, Steam, and Speed. This landscape of a locomotive crossing a bridge uses light and mist to give power to the train engine as it moves down the track. The emphasis is on the hue and the changing light as the train passes through the land.

Many of Turner's later works resemble the Impressionist style of painting that was to emerge in

France in years to come. Turner's work no doubt influenced artists such as Monet, Degas, and Renoir.

J. M. W. Turner is considered by many art historians to be the greatest landscape painter in history. His artwork had a major influence on many artists to come after him including inspiring many of the impressionist artists.

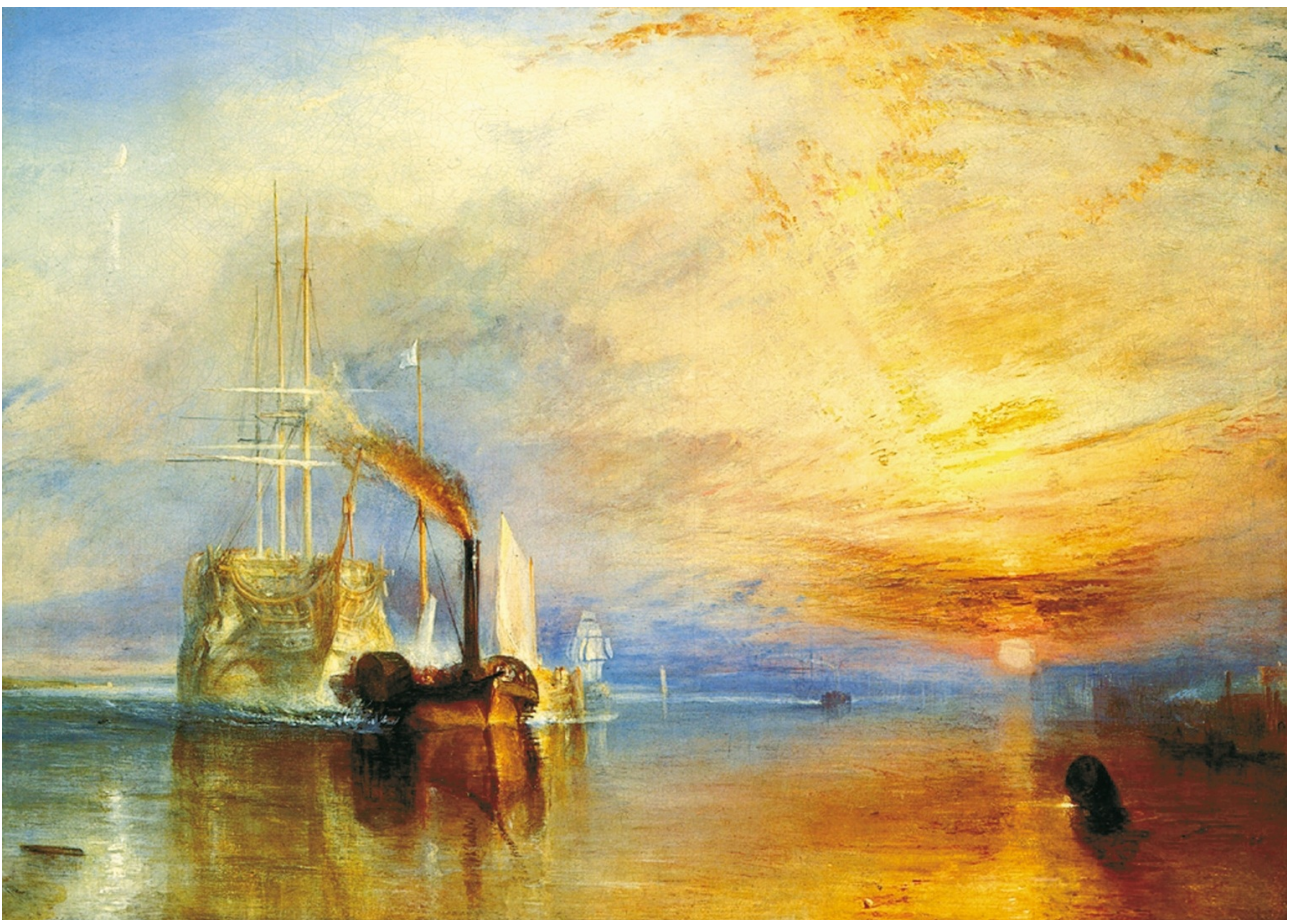
Some other facts about J. M. W. Turner

- Legend has it that he had himself tied to the mast of a ship during a storm so he could experience the power of the sea first hand.
- His personal favorite of all of his paintings was Dido Building Carthage.
- He enjoyed traveling to Italy, especially Venice which inspired a number of his paintings.
- He gave some of his paintings really long titles in order explain them. One was titled "Snow Storm: Steam-boat off a Harbour's Mouth Making Signals in Shallow Water, and Going by the Lead. The Author was in this Storm on the Night the Ariel left Harwich".

Source: ducksters.com



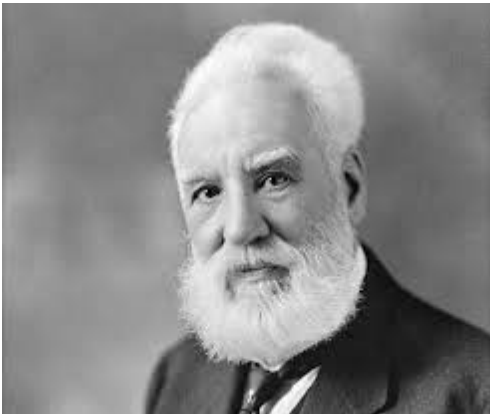
Dido Building Carthage



The Fighting Temeraire

Alexander Graham Bell

1847–1922



Best known for inventing the telephone.

Alexander Graham Bell was born on March 3, 1847 in Edinburgh, Scotland. He grew up in Scotland and was initially homeschooled by his father who was a professor. He later would attend high school as well as the University of Edinburgh.

Bell is most famous for his invention of the telephone. He first became interested in the science of sound

because both his mother and wife were deaf. His experiments in sound eventually let him to want to send voice signals down a telegraph wire. He was able to get some funding and hire his famous assistant Thomas Watson and together they were able to come up with the telephone. The first words spoken over the telephone were by Alexander on March 10, 1876. They were "Mr. Watson, come here, I want to see you".



It turns out that other scientists had similar ideas. Bell had to race to the patent office in order to get his patent in first. He was first and, as a result, Bell and his investors had a valuable patent that would change the world. They formed the Bell Telephone Company in 1877. There have been many mergers and name changes over the years, but this company is known today as AT&T.

Bell had many inventions and did experimentation in many areas of science. Some of these include:

- The Metal Detector — Bell invented the first metal detector which was used to try and find a bullet inside of President James Garfield.
- Audiometer — A device used to detect hearing problems.
- He did experimental work on aeronautics and hydrofoils.
- He invented techniques which helped in teaching speech to deaf persons.
- He made a device to help find icebergs.

Some other facts about Alexander Graham Bell

- Bell made the first transcontinental telephone call on January 15, 1915. He called Thomas Watson from New York City. Watson was in San Francisco.

- He helped form the National Geographic Society.
- Bell did not like to have a telephone in his study as he found it intrusive.
- He did not get the middle name Graham until he was 10 years old, when he asked his father to give him a middle name like his brothers.
- At his wife's request, Bell went by the nickname Alec.
- Upon his death, every phone in North America was silenced for a short period to honor him.

Source: ducksters.com