

4C Charlie Chaplin: Worksheet

1 Watch the video report and complete the fact file about Charlie Chaplin.

Charlie Chaplin
Job: _____
Nationality: _____
Year of birth: _____
First film: _____
Most famous character: _____
Year of death: _____

2 Watch the report again and answer the questions.

1 What was Charlie Chaplin's father's job?

2 What did Charlie do in 1910?

3 What was different about films in the 1910s from films today?

4 What was United Artists?

5 Why did Charlie leave Hollywood?

6 Where did Charlie move to?

4C Charlie Chaplin: Answer key

1

Charlie Chaplin

Job: Actor/film star

Nationality: British

Year of birth: 1889

First film: *Making a Living*

Most famous character: The Little Tramp

Year of death: 1977

2

- 1 He was an actor.
- 2 He travelled to the USA for the first time.
- 3 Films in 1910 were silent, black and white and were about 10 minutes long.
- 4 A company that distributed films.
- 5 For political reasons
- 6 Switzerland

4C Charlie Chaplin: Script

Charlie Chaplin was an international film star, but he was born and grew up in London. When Charlie was born here in south London in 1889, his family was very poor. His father was an actor and his mother a singer, but they separated when Charlie was three years old.

Charlie was only five years old when he acted in the theatre for the first time. By the time he was seventeen years old, Charlie was a very popular comic actor in theatres in London and around England.

In 1910, Charlie travelled to the USA for the first time and toured the country with a travelling theatre group. He returned with the group to the USA in 1912, and this time met the owner of a film studio who wanted Charlie to make films.

Charlie made his first film, *Making a Living*, in 1914, but it wasn't very successful. At this time the cinema was very new. Films were black and white, silent and they were only about ten minutes long. Because there weren't any televisions, the cinema was very popular, and Charlie made over 50 films between 1914 and 1916.

People all around the world watched his films, and quickly Charlie became one of the most famous and richest actors in Hollywood. He played a comedy character called the Little Tramp, and soon everyone recognised his hat, moustache and walking stick.

Soon, Chaplin was writing, directing and producing his own films and composing music for them too.

In 1917 he built a film studio, and in 1919 set up United Artists, a company to distribute his films, giving him more freedom to make them.

Chaplin stayed in Hollywood for 40 years. He moved back to Europe in 1952 for political reasons and lived in Switzerland until he died in 1977. People say that Charlie Chaplin was the first and greatest Hollywood film star, and the writer George Bernard Shaw described him as "the only genius to come out of the movie industry." Today you can watch many of his films on DVD and see for yourself.