Biography Cube

Can be used with both book series

Materials: Scissors, glue stick, crayons or markers, an enlarged copy of the template below

Directions:
1. Enlarge the cube template below.
2. Fill in this information:
   - Side A: Draw your famous person.
   - Side B: Write down your famous person's claim to fame.
   - Side C: Write down the birth (and death) date for your famous person.
   - Side D: Write down two facts about his or her life.
   - Side E: Write down a quote from your famous person.
   - Side F: List the resources you used to learn about your famous person.
3. Cut around the exterior of the cube template.
4. Fold along the solid lines and tabs. Put glue on the tabs to assemble the cube.
5. Students may use this as part of their visual display at the Living Wax Museum.
Illustrated Timeline

Can be used with both book series (refer to timelines at the end of each book as a reference)

Materials: Crayons or markers, an enlarged copy of the timeline below on cardstock

Directions:
1. Enlarge the timeline below on white cardstock.
2. Make a list of important events in your famous person’s life.
3. In each box, illustrate the important events from your list. Include the date and a caption for your picture above or below the box.
4. Students may use this as part of their visual display at the Living Wax Museum.

Title:____________________________________________ Date:___________________________ Name:__________________________

Art © PRH LLC
Living Wax Museum Summary Cards

Can be used with both book series

Materials: A piece of cardstock that has been folded in half to stand tented, glue sticks, lined paper, drawing paper, crayons

Create a tented summary card for your famous person to be used as a reference during the Living Wax Museum. Include the information:

1. Person’s Name
2. Person’s Date and Location of Birth
3. A sentence or two about his or her early life
4. His or her accomplishments or claim to fame
5. One or two fun facts about your famous person
6. Where and when he or she died or what he or she is doing today

Using the prompts above, write a short summary describing your famous person.

Fold a small piece of cardstock in half so that it stands up, tented.

Cut and paste your summary to one side of the cardstock. On the other side, cut and paste a photograph or picture of your famous person. Set up the summary card so that the text faces you and the picture faces your audience. This tented card will be used to help you present your famous person at the Living Wax Museum.

Art © Christopher Eliopoulos
Word Search

Can be used with both book series

Choose ten words associated with your famous person and write them on the lines provided. Embed them in the grid below. Fill in blank spaces with other letters from the alphabet. Trade your word search with a peer to solve, or make blank copies to hand out at the Living Wax Museum.

FAMOUS PERSON: ______________________________________________________________________

1. _________________
2. _________________
3. _________________
4. _________________
5. _________________
6. _________________
7. _________________
8. _________________
9. _________________
10. _________________
Acrostic Poem Template

Can be used with both book series

Write out your famous person’s name vertically with one letter in each box.
Use additional copies if needed. Create an acrostic poem about your famous person using the first letter of each line. The words or phrases you choose should relate to the person’s life, character, and claim to fame. Students may use this as part of their visual display at the Living Wax Museum.
The Ordinary People Change the World Series is written from the first-person point of view. Encourage students to imagine themselves as their famous person. What important lesson or message would their famous person want to share with the world? Ask students to write a short speech from the first-person point of view, using the information found in the Ordinary People Change the World Series.

Materials: cardstock, crayons, scissors, construction paper, lined paper

The speech can be organized in the following way:

1. Introduction
2. Early Life/Family Life
3. Motivations/Challenges
4. Claim to Fame
5. Important message or lesson

Provide students with a large piece of cardstock and ask them to draw and cut out their famous person. Students will use construction paper on the body to make two flaps that will open to reveal lined paper with the written speech inside. (See the picture below.) Students may choose to decorate the outside flap of the construction paper with famous quotes or interesting facts.
Who Was? Series Magazine Cover

The Who Was? Series uses large cartoon-like images to portray the person featured in the book. Students will use this image as inspiration for designing a magazine cover for their famous person. Students will examine real magazine covers to explore the way publishers use words and pictures to summarize the articles and featured content within the magazine.

Materials: The Who Was? book as a reference for text and pictures, samples of magazine covers, crayons, large white paper

Magazine Cover Requirements:
1. Students should consider what type of magazine would most likely feature their famous person and create an appropriate publication title.
2. Students should create a caption that highlights their famous person.
3. Students will include a large drawing of their famous person.
4. The date of the publication
5. A subheading or quote of the student’s choice that represents the famous person’s claim to fame

Teachers who are able to integrate technology could have students create these magazine covers using https://www.yourcover.com/cover-editor.
Guess Who?/People on a Stick

The Who Was? Series uses large cartoon-like images to portray the famous person featured in the book. These cover images will be used to create “People on a Stick” that can be displayed at the Living Wax Museum. They can also be used in a review game called “Guess Who?” at the conclusion of the fair.

Materials: Photocopies of the Who Was? book covers, in color if possible, large popsicle sticks, tape

Students will cut out the cartoon images from the photocopied book cover. Students will generate three clues about their famous person and write them out on the back of the book-cover cutout. These clues should reveal telling information about their famous person’s accomplishments and claim to fame. Once the clues have been clearly written on the back of the book-cover cutouts, provide students with a popsicle stick and tape to assemble the “People on a Stick.” On the front of the popsicle stick, students should write their famous person’s name vertically. The sticks will look like this:

To play “Guess Who?”, place the “people on sticks” facedown in a circle and ask students to stand in front of one of the sticks. Give each student one minute to read the clues and guess the identity of the person before they turn the stick over to reveal the famous person’s name and face. Students will rotate around the room, reading clues and testing their knowledge of the featured people studied by their peers.
Living Wax Museum

THE MAIN EVENT

Students will portray their famous person at the Living Wax Museum, attended by parents, faculty, and other classes. Using the information gathered from the Ordinary People Change the World and Who Was? book series, students will transform their research into a first-person presentation about their chosen person of study. They will use summary cards as the text for their speech.

Students will need:
1. “Hello My Name Is” stickers
2. A costume
3. A paper button (directions below)
4. Visual aids and props to accompany their presentation, perhaps displayed on poster board or arranged on their desks
5. First-person summary cards for their speech

At the wax museum, students will be dressed up as their famous person of study and will stand frozen in front of a display they’ve created. This visual presentation will incorporate other completed activities from this kit to further portray their famous person’s achievements and important life events. Each student will create a button out of construction paper (see directions below). Once a visitor presses the button, the student will “come to life,” recite the speech on their summary card, and answer any follow-up questions from the first-person point of view.

Directions for creating the button: Ask students to cut out a small red circle from construction paper. Provide students with a thin strip of construction paper that is folded like an accordion. Tape one end of the accordion strip to the center of the circle and the other end on the desk to create a pop-up button that visitors can press.