

# FAMOUS FAILURES


**Famous Failures** Name: Avery



## Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln was born in a log cabin in Hardin County, Kentucky on February 12, 1809. Abraham's mother died when he was 9 years old and his father remarried. His father moved to Indiana when he was 17.

**Famous Failures** Name: Liam



## Arianna Huffington

Arianna Stassinopoulus was born in Athens, Greece on July 15, 1950. She moved to Great Britain as a teenager and attended the University of Cambridge. Many people in her life told her she would not get in to the university because her English was not strong.

After graduating, she lived for a time in London. In 1980, Arianna moved to the United States. She met and married Michael Huffington in 1986. She began writing articles for a journal called the *National Review*. She wrote her first book at 23 years old called *The Female Woman*. While her first book found some success, her second book was rejected by 36 different publishers. She faced many rejections before one publisher finally agreed to print it.

Arianna also ran for governor of California against Arnold Schwarzenegger, but she eventually withdrew from the race.

**STOP AND THINK.**

- How do you think Arianna felt after 36 publishers rejected her book?
- What is one thing you would tell Arianna after her failures?


In 2005 Arianna launched The Huffington Post. It was a website full of blog posts, articles, and news. In 2011, Arianna sold The Huffington Post to AOL for \$325 million. She created a new company called Thrive Global and is now its president and editor in chief.

**What is one thing we can learn from Arianna Huffington?**

Something we can learn from Arianna Huffington is to never give up on your dreams. If you have a passion for something, keep trying to accomplish your goals and learn from failure.

©2018 Create-abilities LLC. All rights reserved.

**Famous Failures** Name: Sophia



## Akio Morita

Akio Morita was born on January 26, 1921 in Kosugaya, Japan. He developed an interest in technology and sound reproduction. He began performing his own electronic experiments and building his own ham radio.

After serving in the Navy, Akio was in charge of a special project at the Aviation Technology Center where they worked on thermal guidance weapons and night-vision equipment. There, he met Masaru Ibuka, who began working with him as his business partner.

In 1946, both men set out to make Japan's first tape recorders. They searched hard for materials as Japan was still recovering from War II. The tape sounded terrible, but it worked. While they worked on tape recorders and radios, they also tried to make an electric rice cooker. However, the rice cooker didn't work. It either cooked rice that was wet and soggy or burnt.

**THINK.**

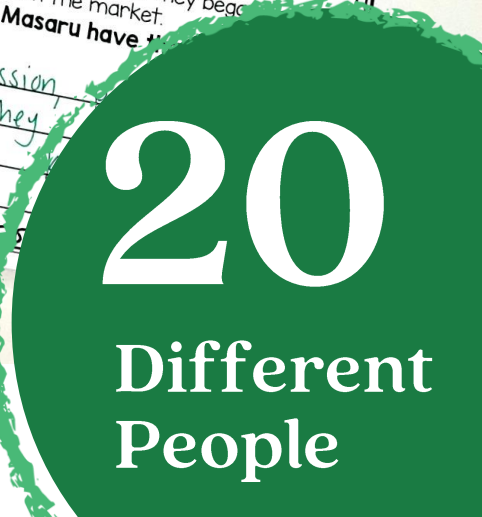
How do you think Akio and Masaru felt after their rice cooker failure?

What characteristics would it take to keep trying to make their business succeed?

Their business from Tokyo Telecommunications was a combination for the Latin word "sonus", meaning "sound". Their nickname "Sonny", the two men began producing radios and other electronics. They began producing the best electronics on the market.

**What do you think Akio and Masaru have learned from their failures?**

It's passion and determination. They never gave up.





# Thank you!

Thanks for choosing my products. I truly appreciate your support and look forward to hearing your feedback.

Subscribe to our **Monthly Newsletter** for ideas, updates, and **FREEBIES!**

[Subscribe](#)

## Get Inspired

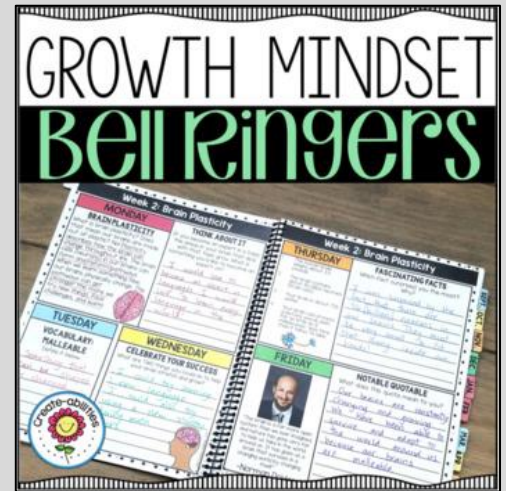
Check out the **Create-abilities Blog**

[Read Now](#)

### Connect



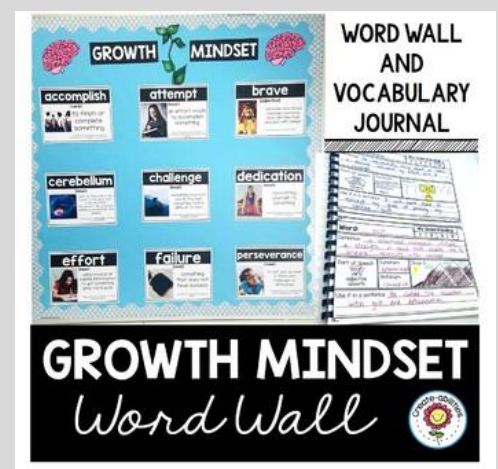
## You might also like:



[Get this!](#)



[Get this!](#)



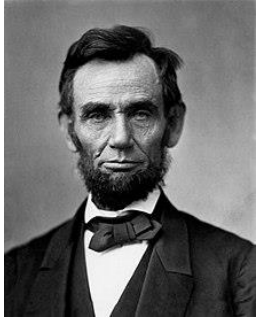
[Get this!](#)

# Table of Contents

| <b>Activity</b>         | <b>Pages</b>          |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Teacher Directions      | <a href="#">4</a>     |
| Abraham Lincoln         | <a href="#">5</a>     |
| Akio Morita             | <a href="#">6</a>     |
| Albert Einstein         | <a href="#">7</a>     |
| Arianna Huffington      | <a href="#">8</a>     |
| Bob Mankoff             | <a href="#">9</a>     |
| Colonel Sanders         | <a href="#">10</a>    |
| Diana Nyad              | <a href="#">11</a>    |
| Dr. Seuss               | <a href="#">12</a>    |
| Elizabeth Blackwell     | <a href="#">13</a>    |
| Henry Ford              | <a href="#">14</a>    |
| J.K. Rowling            | <a href="#">15</a>    |
| Lady Gaga               | <a href="#">16</a>    |
| Oprah Winfrey           | <a href="#">17</a>    |
| Sidney Poitier          | <a href="#">18</a>    |
| Soichiro Honda          | <a href="#">19</a>    |
| Steve Jobs              | <a href="#">20</a>    |
| Thomas Edison           | <a href="#">21</a>    |
| Vera Wang               | <a href="#">22</a>    |
| Walt Disney             | <a href="#">23</a>    |
| The Wright Brothers     | <a href="#">24</a>    |
| Optional Response Sheet | <a href="#">25-26</a> |
| Credits and Copyright   | <a href="#">27</a>    |

# Teacher Directions

1. Print out the famous failures you want to discuss with your students. You can give them their own person, or talk about one together as a class.
2. Students read the first section about the person. They then stop and think about the two questions. You can have them write them down in a journal, on the back of the reading passage, or on the optional writing page included in this pack.



# Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln was born in a log cabin in Hardin County, Kentucky on February 12, 1809. Abraham's mother died when he was just 9 years old and his father remarried. His family eventually moved to Indiana.

While both his parents couldn't read, Abraham's step-mother encouraged him to learn. Finding books in the wilderness where they lived was difficult. Abraham often walked miles to borrow books.

After teaching himself about the law, he tried to go to law school but couldn't get in. In 1832 he ran for the state legislature and lost. In 1833 he borrowed money from a friend to start a business. That business failed and he spent the next 17 years repaying his debt to his friend. In 1838 he tried to become speaker of the state legislature and was defeated. Over the next few years he tried to run for congress, become a land officer, run for senate, and receive the nomination for Vice President. Each time he was defeated.

## STOP AND THINK.

1. How do you think Abraham Lincoln felt after all of those defeats?
2. What do you think he did next?

Finally, after finding some success in Congress, Abraham Lincoln was elected to be President of the United States. He worked hard to end slavery and bring together a divided nation. In 1865 he was assassinated while watching a play at Ford's Theater.

## How did Abraham Lincoln show a growth mindset?

---

---

---

---

---

# Famous Failures

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## Akio Morita

Akio Morita was born on January 26, 1921 in Kosugaya, Japan. He developed an interest in technology and sound reproduction. He began performing his own electronic experiments and building his own ham radio.

After serving in the Navy, Akio was in charge of a special project at the Aviation Technology Center where they worked on thermal guidance weapons and night-vision equipment. There, he met Masaru Ibuka, who began working with him as his business partner.

In 1946, both men set out to make Japan's first tape recorders. They had to search hard for materials as Japan was still recovering from World War II. The tape sounded terrible, but it worked. While they worked on tape recorders and radios, they also tried to make an electric rice cooker. However, the rice cooker didn't work. It either produced rice that was wet and soggy, or burnt.

### STOP AND THINK.

1. How do you think Akio and Masaru felt after their rice cooker failure?
2. What characteristics would it take to keep trying to make their business succeed?

After renaming their business from Tokyo Telecommunications Company to Sony (a combination for the Latin word "*sonus*", meaning "sound" and the English nickname "Sonny"), the two men began successfully producing radios and other electronics. They began creating some of the best electronics in the world today.

**What characteristics do Akio and Masaru have that helped them succeed?**

---

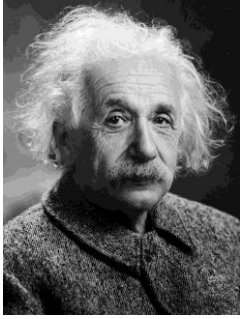
---

---

---

# Famous Failures

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## Albert Einstein

Albert Einstein was born on March 14, 1879 in Germany. He became fascinated by music, mathematics, and science as a young child. At 5 years old, he became fascinated by a compass and the “invisible” forces that moved the needle.

Albert struggled with school. He didn't learn to speak until he was four years old and couldn't speak fluently until he was nine years old. One teacher even told him that he would never amount to anything.

After his family moved to Italy in 1894, Albert stayed alone in Munich to finish his education. Alone, miserable, and worried about being forced to serve in the military when he turned 16, Albert dropped out of school and ran away to Italy. After returning to school and finishing his education, Albert had a difficult time finding a job. He was turned down for teaching positions and was fired from tutoring jobs.

### STOP AND THINK.

1. How do you think Albert Einstein felt after his failures?
2. What characteristics would it take to keep trying to succeed?

Finally after receiving a job at a patent office, Albert began to find success. He wrote four papers on physics in what he called his “Miracle Year.” He finally found a job at the University of Zurich and later at the University of Berlin. Albert later moved to the United States and worked for the Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey. He won the Nobel Prize in physics in 1921.

**Why do you think Albert Einstein never gave up?**

---

---

---

---

---

# Famous Failures

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Arianna Huffington

Arianna Stassinopoulus was born in Athens, Greece on July 15, 1950. She moved to Great Britain as a teenager and attended the University of Cambridge. Many people in her life told her she would not get into the university because her English was not strong.

After graduating, she lived for a time in London. In 1980, Arianna moved to the United States. She met and married Michael Huffington in 1986. She began writing articles for a journal called the *National Review*. She wrote her first book, at 23 years old called *The Female Woman*. While her first book found some success, her second book was rejected by 36 different publishers. She faced many rejections before one publisher finally agreed to print it.

Arianna also ran for governor of California against Arnold Schwarzenegger, but she eventually withdrew from the race.

## STOP AND THINK.

1. How do you think Arianna felt after 36 publishers rejected her book?
2. What is one thing you would tell Arianna after her failures?

In 2005 Arianna launched The Huffington Post. It was a website full of blog posts, articles, and news. In 2011, Arianna sold The Huffington Post to AOL for \$325 million. She created a new company called Thrive Global and is now its president and editor in chief.

**What is one thing we can learn from Arianna Huffington?**

---

---

---

---

---

# Famous Failures

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## Bob Mankoff

Bob Mankoff was born on May 1, 1944 in New York. He loved drawing from a young age. After attending a special high school for art, Bob felt his talent wasn't good enough and didn't draw for three years.

After buying a book on cartooning, he realized that he still loved to draw. He created 27 cartoons and walked from one magazine to another trying to sell them. Not one magazine purchased one of his cartoons. He decided to not give up and kept drawing. He wanted to get his cartoons accepted by the *New Yorker* newspaper, one of the largest and most well-known newspapers at the time. He submitted over 2,000 cartoons to the *New Yorker* and received a rejection letter for each one.

### STOP AND THINK.

1. What characteristics did Bob have that kept him from giving up?
2. What do you think Bob did next?

Bob decided to study what cartoons had been accepted by the *New Yorker*. He went to the library and studied every single comic that had been accepted. Then, he worked to develop his own unique style of drawing. Finally, he had a comic accepted by the newspaper. The next year he had thirteen comics accepted and then twenty-seven comics accepted the following year. Bob now works as a cartoon editor at the same newspaper that rejected him.

**What is one thing we can learn from Bob Mankoff?**

---

---

---

---

---



# Colonel Sanders

Harland Sanders was born on September 9, 1890 in Henryville, Indiana. After his father died when he was a little boy, his mother had to leave the home to work.

Harland was put in charge of caring for his younger siblings when he was only 5 years old. By the age of 7, he had become skilled at cooking bread and vegetables.

Harland bounced around from job to job. Finally, in 1930 Harland opened a service station where he cooked fried chicken and other southern dishes. His restaurant became so popular that he opened his own restaurant. He spent the next 9 years perfecting the use of a pressure cooker to fry his chicken and the secret spices he used for flavoring. The governor of Kentucky dubbed him "Colonel Sanders." After a new highway was built that took traffic away from his restaurant, he sold it for barely any money.

Colonel Sanders then spent the next 2 years living in his car while he drove around looking for restaurants to buy his chicken recipe. He was rejected 1,009 times.

## STOP AND THINK.

1. How do you think Colonel Sanders felt after losing his first restaurant?
2. What is one thing you would tell Colonel Sanders after being rejected over 1,000 times?

Colonel Sanders eventually found someone to buy his recipe and he sold his company for \$2 million.

**Why do you think Colonel Sanders never gave up?**

---

---

---

---

---

# Famous Failures

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## Diana Nyad

Diana Nyad was born on August 22, 1949 in New York City. She joined her school's swim team when she was eight years old. She continued to swim through college and began to set distance records for swimming. She set a speed record by swimming around Manhattan in under eight hours. She also set a distance record when she swam 102.5 miles from the Bahamas to Florida.

After working as a sports journalist for many years, Diana returned to the water in 2007. In 2010, at the age of 60, she began training for her biggest swim yet. She wanted to swim from Cuba to Florida, a 103 mile journey. Bad weather forced her to cancel her swim for another year. In 2011, after 29 hours of swimming, Diana had to be pulled out of the water because strong winds and waves had pushed her miles off course. Diana made her third attempt at the swim in September 2011. Again, she had to be pulled out of the water, this time for jellyfish stings. Her fourth attempt also ended in failure after two storms and nine jellyfish stings.

### STOP AND THINK.

1. Why do you think Diana Nyad kept trying after so many failures?
2. What do you think Diana did next?

Finally, on August 31, 2013, Diana made her fifth and final attempt at the swim. Accompanied by a 35 person support team and wearing a silicone mask, full bodysuit, gloves, and booties, she completed her swim from Cuba to Florida. Her final swim took her 53 hours.

### What can you learn from Diana Nyad?

---

---

---

---

# Famous Failures

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## Dr. Seuss

Theodor Seuss Geisel was born on March 2, 1904 in Springfield, Massachusetts. After leaving home to attend Dartmouth College, Theodor became the editor of the humor magazine *Jack-O-Lantern*. After getting caught breaking the rules, he was kicked off the magazine staff. It was then that he started using his mother's maiden name Seuss to write under.

After marrying his wife Helen, Seuss decided that he wanted to become a cartoonist full-time. After working in the advertising department for Standard Oil, he was offered a contract to write a children's book. The book was a failure and barely sold any copies.

Seuss decided to write another book called *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street*. It was rejected 27 times before finally being published in 1937.

### STOP AND THINK.

1. What do you think Dr. Seuss did next?
2. Do you think Dr. Seuss had a fixed mindset or a growth mindset? Explain.

Dr. Seuss went on to write many more books including *The Cat in the Hat* and *Green Eggs and Ham*. He became a very popular children's book author.

**Why do you think Dr. Seuss never gave up?**

---

---

---

---

---

# Famous Failures

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Elizabeth Blackwell

Elizabeth Blackwell was born on February 3, 1821 in Bristol, Gloucestershire, England. Her family supported education for boys and girls, which was unusual at the time. Elizabeth was taught German and French, among other subjects. She worked for many years as a teacher.

After hearing a friend complain that she would have preferred to go to a female doctor, Elizabeth decided she wanted to go to medical school. After saving up the money needed to apply, she was rejected again and again. Many people told her that she would need to move to Paris or dress like a man to be able to learn medicine. Elizabeth was rejected from 29 different medical schools.

## STOP AND THINK.

1. **What do you think Elizabeth Blackwell did next?**
2. **What characteristics do you think Elizabeth had that kept her from giving up?**

Finally, Elizabeth was admitted to Geneva Medical College in 1847. The faculty said the only way she would be admitted is to have all 150 male students vote unanimously to let her in. She graduated in 1849 and became the first female doctor in the United States. She later founded a hospital for women and a medical college to train other women to become doctors.

**What characteristics did Elizabeth Blackwell have that helped her succeed?**

---

---

---

---

---

# Famous Failures

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Henry Ford



Henry Ford was born on July 30, 1863 in Wayne County, Michigan. When he was 13 years old, Henry's father gave him a pocket watch. He took it apart and reassembled all the pieces. He instantly fell in love with machines. When he was 23, he got his first look at a gas-powered engine and never looked back.

He spent countless hours building his own engine in a shed behind his home. By 1896, he had completed his first model, which he called the Quadricycle. While the Quadricycle looked nice and ran well, it was too small and incomplete to compete with other automobile manufacturers of the time. He began working on a second model and searched for financial backers. After finding someone to give him the money he needed to create his automobiles, his company failed twice. Each time, Henry was left with no money and no way to build his vehicles.

### STOP AND THINK.

1. What do you think Henry Ford did next?
2. How do you think Henry Ford felt after all his failures?

Finally, Henry found someone who would give him the money and time he needed to make his cars. He created a new type of assembly line that could make 15 cars a day, which was a big number at the time. His cars became so popular that he founded the Ford Motor Company and began to hire more workers.

### Why do you think Henry Ford never gave up?

---

---

---

---

---

# Famous Failures

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# J.K. Rowling

Joanne Rowling was born July 31, 1965 in Yate, England. She adopted her pen name J.K., using her first name and her grandmother's name, Kathleen. She married, and later divorced Portuguese journalist Jorge Arantes. They had one daughter together named Jessica.

After moving to London with her daughter, J.K. Rowling struggled to survive. She lived on welfare and once said she was "as poor as it is possible to be in modern Britain, without being homeless...by every usual standard, I was the biggest failure I knew."

After having the idea to write a book about a wizard named Harry, it took her five years to complete the novel while trying to work and care for her daughter as a single parent. When the book was finished, it was rejected by 12 different publishers.

## STOP AND THINK.

1. **What characteristics would it take for J.K. Rowling to keep trying to succeed?**
2. **How do you think J.K. Rowling felt after all her failures?**

A small publishing house eventually decided to publish her book. Today, over 450 million copies of her books have been sold. They have also been made into plays and movies. She is one of the wealthiest women in the world.

**What is one thing we can learn from J.K. Rowling?**

---

---

---

---

---

# Famous Failures

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Lady Gaga

Stefani Germanotta was born on March 28, 1986 in New York. She showed musical talent early in her life. She played the piano by age 4 and was writing songs by the time she was a teenager. She was admitted to NYU's musical

theater conservatory at age 17 but dropped out two years later to focus on her musical career. Her father agreed to support her for one year. However, if she didn't have a record deal in that year, she had to go back to school.

Stefani created a small band, but they broke up after only a few months. After finding manager Rob Fusari, she began going to music labels looking for a record deal. Not one company wanted to sign her. Her manager sent her a text message that autocorrected her name to Lady Gaga. After that, she never went by Stefani again.

After changing her name, and her look, she landed a deal for \$850,000. However, after three months the record label dropped her.

## STOP AND THINK.

1. What do you think Lady Gaga did next?
2. How do you think Lady Gaga felt after all her failures?

She began to work on her image and her sound. Finally, she got a record deal and recorded her first song called "Just Dance." This song was a huge hit and she is now one of the most famous singers in the world.

## What is one thing we can learn from Lady Gaga?

---

---

---

---

---

# Famous Failures

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Oprah Winfrey

Oprah was born on January 29, 1954 in Kosciusko, Mississippi. Her childhood was far from happy as she experienced years of abuse and neglect from different family members. Finally, Oprah was sent to live with her father in Tennessee when she was a teenager. He made her education a priority and she received a full scholarship to Tennessee State University where she studied communication.

After being hired as a T.V. news anchor, her first boss told her she was too emotional and wasn't right for television. She was fired from the show.

## STOP AND THINK.

1. What do you think Oprah did next?
2. What is one thing you would have liked to tell Oprah after she was fired?

After being fired from her news job, Oprah was hired to work on a radio show. Her show became very popular and she was contacted by T.V. producers to have her own television show. It was called *The Oprah Winfrey Show* and it became one of the most popular talk shows of all time. Oprah went on to star in movies and eventually created her own television network called OWN. She is the richest self-made woman and the only black female billionaire.

## What is one thing we can learn from Oprah?

---

---

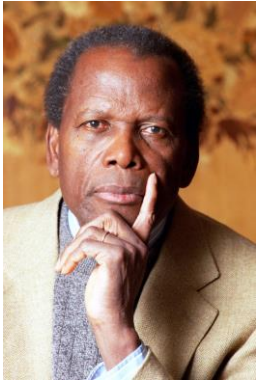
---

---

---

# Famous Failures

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Sidney Poitier

Sidney Poitier was born on February 20, 1927 in Miami, Florida. He grew up in the Bahamas with his family. At the age of 15, he was sent to live in Miami with his brother's family. This was the first time he was treated poorly because of the color of his skin. He

worked at various restaurants as a dishwasher. At one of those restaurants, a waiter sat with him every night after work and taught him to read. He was so poor that he had to sleep in the public restroom at a bus terminal.

Sidney then tried to join the North American Negro Theater. He was rejected because of his thick Bahamian accent and his inability to sing.

## STOP AND THINK.

1. How do you think Sidney felt after being rejected?
2. What characteristics would it take for Sidney to keep trying to succeed?

Sidney dedicated the next 6 months to work on his acting skills and rid himself of his accent. He then auditioned again and was given a leading role in the Broadway play *Lysistrata*. The play failed after four days, but Sidney was given more chances to act. He then went on to star in movies and became the first male actor of Bahamian descent to win an Academy Award for Best Actor for his role in *Lilies of the Field*. He is now known as one of the best actors of all time.

## What actions did Sidney take that changed his life?

---

---

---

---

---

# Famous Failures

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Soichiro Honda



Soichiro Honda was born on November 17, 1906 in a small village near Hamamatsu, Japan. Soichiro was fascinated by cars from a very young age. At the age of 15, he moved to Tokyo and began working in a garage as a car mechanic.

Soichiro began working on the concept of a piston ring to help cars run better. He wanted to sell his idea to Toyota, a large car company in Japan. He worked night and day on his design, sometimes even sleeping in his small workshop. He even sold some of his personal items and his wife's jewelry to make ends meet. After completing the ring, he took his design to Toyota, only to be told his ring did not meet their standards. After returning to work, some laughed at his design.

### STOP AND THINK.

1. Do you think Soichiro had a fixed or a growth mindset?
2. How do you think Soichiro felt after getting laughed at for his design?

After working for two more years on his designs, he finally got a contract with Toyota. After bombings from World War II destroyed his factories, he created the Honda Technical Research Institute where he began producing motorized bicycles and motorcycles. He also formed the Honda Motor Company, which went on to become a billion-dollar, international success.

**What is one thing we can learn from Soichiro Honda?**

---

---

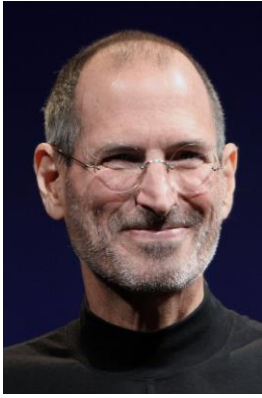
---

---

---

# Famous Failures

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Steve Jobs

Steve Jobs was born on February 24, 1955 in San Francisco, California. From a young age, Steve loved electronics. After meeting friend Steve Wozniak in high school, the two men founded the Apple Computer company in Steve's garage.

The men began creating and selling personal computers and became very wealthy. However, after some creative differences with the company, Steve was forced to resign from the company he created. He once said of the event, "What had been the focus of my entire adult life, was gone. It was devastating."

After his resignation, Steve created his own company called NeXT. That company struggled and eventually was sold. He eventually returned to Apple and experienced many product failures. He put millions of dollars into products like the Apple Lisa and Macintosh TV, all of which failed.

## STOP AND THINK.

1. Why do you think Steve kept trying after so many failures?
2. What do you think Steve did next?

Steve went on to find success. He founded Pixar, which produced films like Toy Story and Finding Nemo. He also helped create innovative products like the iPhone, iPad, and iPod. He is considered to be one of the most influential men in history.

## What actions helped Steve Jobs succeed?

---

---

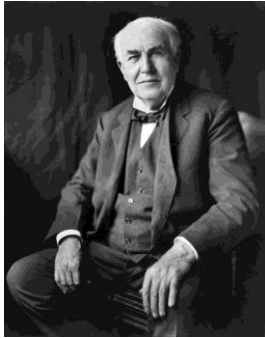
---

---

---

# Famous Failures

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## Thomas Edison

Thomas Edison was born on February 11, 1847 in Milan, Ohio. He was interested in experimenting and inventing from an early age. He was fired from a job at Western Union because he was experimenting with sulfuric acid and spilled some on the floor, which leaked onto his boss's desk on the floor below.

Edison had many failures in his life. His work in cement furniture, finding a way to mine iron ore, the electric pen, talking dolls, and automatic voice recorder all ended in disaster. He tried over 10,000 times to create an efficient light bulb.

### STOP AND THINK.

1. Do you think Thomas Edison had a fixed or a growth mindset?
2. Why do you think Thomas Edison kept trying after so many failures?

Thomas Edison went on to have a successful career as an inventor and business owner. He held 1,093 patents for his inventions in the United States, and many more in France, Germany, and the United Kingdom. He invented many useful items such as the automatic telegraph, the phonograph, an efficient light bulb, and an electric lighting system. He once said of all of his attempts at creating an efficient light bulb, "I have not failed 10,000 times-I've successfully found 10,000 ways that will not work."

**What characteristics did Thomas Edison have that helped him succeed?**

---

---

---

---

---

# Famous Failures

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Vera Wang

Vera Wang was born on June 27, 1949 in New York City. She graduated from Sarah Lawrence College with a degree in art history.

As a young girl, Vera began figure skating at the age of eight. She continued to skate through high school and competed in the U.S. Figure Skating Championships. However, she failed to make the Olympic team and decided to move into the fashion industry. Vera once said of this time her life, "I think quitting was a sign to me that I failed. I didn't know if I was ever going to be able to find something else in my life that meant quite as much."

Vera began working for Vogue, but felt like she wasn't going to advance in her career. After 15 years, she quit her job.

## **STOP AND THINK.**

- 1. How do you think Vera felt after quitting her job at Vogue?**
- 2. What do you think Vera Wang did next?**

Vera went on to create her own fashion line. She has designed lines for figure skaters, actresses, and brides. She now has bridal salons all over the world and has continued to create and design clothes for millions of people around the world.

**What actions did Vera take that changed her life?**

---

---

---

---

---

# Famous Failures

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Walt Disney

Walt Disney was born on December 5, 1901 in Chicago. After having difficulties with his father, Walt left home at the age of 19 and lied about his age so he could drive an ambulance in World War I.

After being laid off from a cartooning job at 22, he started his own company called Laugh-O-Gram Studios. That company failed to get many customers and he went bankrupt. Unable to pay his rent, Walt had to eat dog food to survive.

He moved to California and created Disney Brothers Studio with his brother Roy. They began to produce short films and then full-length animated films such as Dumbo and Cinderella. However, his idea for Mickey Mouse was rejected by studios because a giant mouse on screen would terrify people. Walt was also turned down by many bankers who wouldn't give him the money he needed to build Disneyland.

## STOP AND THINK.

1. Why do you think Walt kept trying after so many failures?
2. What do you think Walt Disney did next?

Walt was eventually able to get money for Disneyland. He also went on to create many more movies. His company, movies, and theme parks have come to be beloved by millions of people around the world.

**What characteristics did Walt Disney have that you admire?**

---

---

---

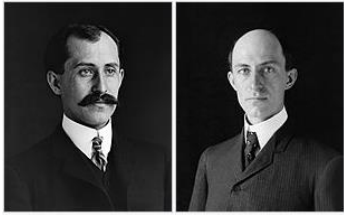
---

---

# Famous Failures

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Wright Brothers



Orville and Wilbur Wright were two of seven children born to Milton and Susan Wright. One day their father brought home a toy helicopter made of bamboo, cork, and a rubber band. The boys played with it until it broke, and then they made their own. They

repeatedly spoke of how this experience ignited their passion for flying.

The brothers worked together in various jobs growing up. They wrote and printed a weekly newspaper and owned a bike repair and sales shop. During this time, many others were experimenting with planes and different forms of flight. After reading about these experiments, the two brothers began their own research into flight.

They created several gliders and took them to Kitty Hawk, North Carolina to test them. They experienced many crashes and set backs with machine parts as they worked to design a machine-powered airplane.

### STOP AND THINK.

1. Why do you think the Wright Brothers never gave up after all their crashes?
2. What do you think the brothers did next?

Finally, after working through bad weather and technical problems, Orville was able to fly their powered airplane for 12 seconds before crashing. This laid the foundation for modern airplanes.

**Why do you think the Wright Brothers never gave up?**

---

---

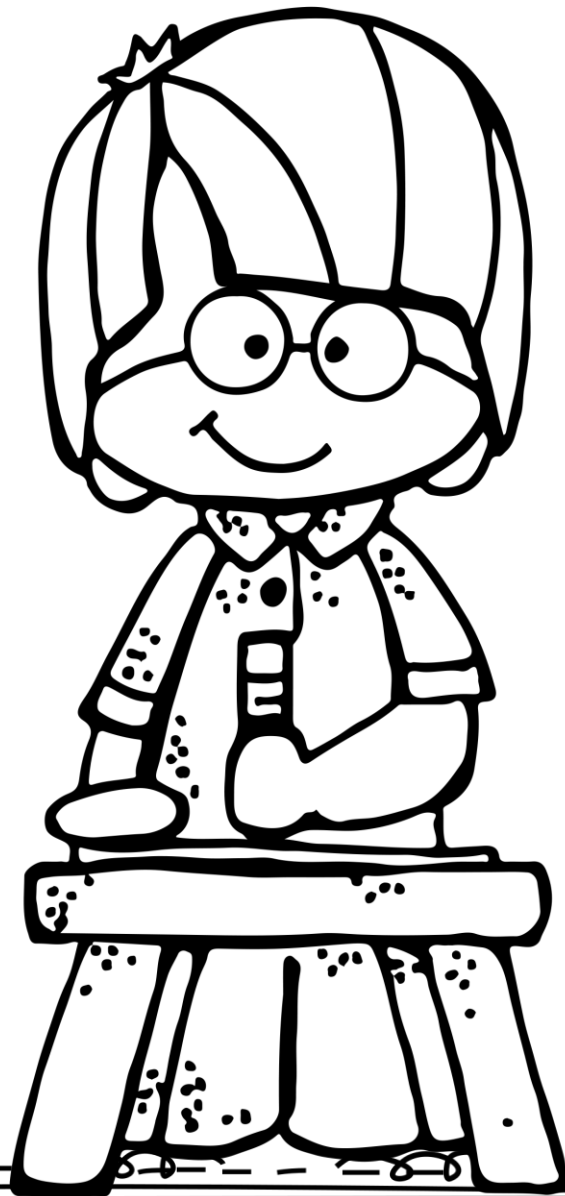
---

---

---

Famous Failures

# Response Sheets



# Famous Failures

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Picture:

Person:

**STOP AND THINK.**

**Write the answers to the questions below.**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**FINAL QUESTION:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Famous Failures

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Person: \_\_\_\_\_

**STOP AND THINK**

---

---

---

---

**FINAL QUESTION**

Picture:

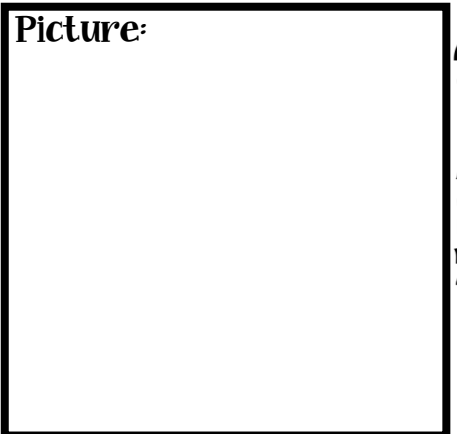
---

---

---

---

---



©2018 Create-abilities LLC. All rights reserved.

# Famous Failures

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Person: \_\_\_\_\_

**STOP AND THINK**

---

---

---

---

**FINAL QUESTION**

Picture:

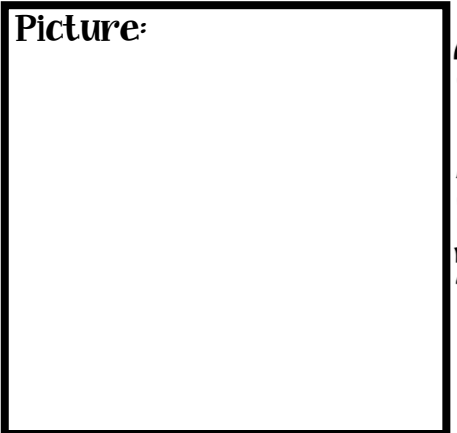
---

---

---

---

---



©2018 Create-abilities LLC. All rights reserved.

# Famous Failures

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Write down what you learned about each person in the box below.

**Person:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Person:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Famous Failures

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Write down what you learned about each person in the box below.

**Person:**

**Person:**

# Thank you for your purchase!

Please note, this product is for personal classroom use by a single teacher. Please honor the time and effort put into this product by not giving it away to others. Please read and abide by the copyright statement below. Your purchase allows you to return to your purchases page to purchase additional licenses at a reduced cost for your colleagues.

© Copyright 2018. Create-abilities. All rights reserved. Permission is granted to copy pages specifically designed for student or teacher use by the original purchaser or licensee. The reproduction of any other part of this product is strictly prohibited. Copying any part of this product and placing it on the Internet in any form (even a personal/classroom website) is strictly forbidden. Doing so makes it possible for an Internet search to make the document available on the Internet, free of charge, and is a violation of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA).

## Acknowledgements

