Mother Teresa was a Catholic nun who spent her life helping the world’s poorest and sickest people.

She was born on August 26, 1910 in Skopje, Macedonia. At birth, she was named Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu. Agnes’s mother was a devout (very strong) Catholic. This means that she believed in the Church and its work. She taught this belief to Agnes. From the time Agnes was very young, her mother taught her to help other people, especially the people who could not help themselves.

When Agnes was 12, she felt called to religious life. This means that she felt in her heart that becoming a nun, or person who lives their life for the Church and God, was what she wanted to do. When she was 18, she joined a convent (a house for nuns) in Ireland. Here, she took the name Sister Mary Teresa.
Sister Teresa moved to India after a year to study and do her training as a nun. She worked at Saint Mary’s High School for Girls in Calcutta, India. There she taught young girls from some of the city’s poorest families. While she was there, Sister Teresa learned to speak the local languages of Bengali and Hindi. On May 24, 1937, Sister Teresa finished her training. She took her vows to become a full nun. From this point on, she was called Mother Teresa.

Mother Teresa continued to live in Calcutta and teach at Saint Mary’s High School for Girls. Then, in 1946, she received a message from God. She heard God speak to her and tell her that she should stop teaching at Saint Mary’s. God told her that she should go and help the poorest and sickest people in Calcutta.

Because she was a good nun, Mother Teresa did what she believed God told her to do. She left the convent she lived in, stopped working at the school, and studied medicine for six months. Then, she went to the slums, or the poorest areas of Calcutta, and began helping the people who lived there.

First, Mother Teresa built a school and medical centers. This helped the children get an education and the sick people get medical help. She soon built more medical centers and places that would help the people living in the slums. In addition, Mother Teresa began a group called the Missionaries of Charity. A “missionary” is a religious person who helps other people. The
group grew quickly. Soon, the group was receiving donations and money from around the world. This allowed them to help even more people.

In 1965, Mother Teresa made the Missionaries of Charity even bigger. She began travelling around the world and helping people in many different countries. Soon, Mother Teresa was known around the world as a person who cared for other people. She won many international awards for helping people including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.

Mother Teresa died on September 5, 1997. She was 87 years old. Because she spent her life helping other people, the Catholic Church made her a saint in 2003. This is the highest award the Catholic Church can give. People around the world will always remember Mother Teresa for her kindness and for the work that she did to help other people.
Mother Teresa Worksheet – Exercises

A. Answer the following questions.

1. At what age did Mother Teresa know she wanted to become a nun?

2. Why did Mother Teresa stop teaching at Saint Mary’s High School?

3. What was the name of the group that Mother Teresa started?

B. Rewrite the following sentences as negative sentences, yes/no questions, WH-questions (using the underlined word) and tag questions.

Examples for the sentence “Mother Teresa was a Catholic nun.”

Negative: Mother Teresa was not a Catholic nun.

Yes/No Question: Was Mother Teresa a Catholic nun?

WH-Question: Who was a Catholic nun?

Tag Question: Mother Teresa was a Catholic nun, wasn’t she?
1. She was born on August 26, 1910.

Negative: 

Yes/No Question: 

WH-Question: 

Tag Question: 

2. When she was 18, she joined a convent.

Negative: 

Yes/No Question: 

WH-Question: 

Tag Question: 

3. She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.

Negative: 

Yes/No Question: 

WH-Question: 

Tag Question: 
C. Write the correct word in the blank.

1. Agnes’s mother was ________ devout Catholic.
   a) a  b) an  c) the

2. Her mother taught ________ to help other people.
   a) she  b) her  c) hers

3. She worked ________ Saint Mary’s High School for Girls.
   a) on  b) to  c) at

4. She ________ to the slums and helped the people who lived there.
   a) goes  b) goed  c) went

5. Mother Teresa ________ a school and medical centers.
   a) to build  b) build  c) built

6. The group grew ________.
   a) quickly  b) quick  c) quickest

7. She began travelling ________ the world.
   a) in  b) at  c) around

8. The Catholic Church made her a saint ________ 2003.
   a) on  b) since  c) in
A. Answer the following questions.

1. At what age did Mother Teresa know she wanted to become a nun?

Mother Teresa knew she wanted to become a nun when she was 12.

2. Why did Mother Teresa stop teaching at Saint Mary’s High School?

Mother Teresa stopped teaching at Saint Mary’s High School because God spoke to her and told her to go and help Calcutta’s poorest and sickest people.

3. What was the name of the group that Mother Teresa started?

The group that Mother Teresa started was called the Missionaries of Charity.

B. Rewrite the following sentences as negative sentences, yes/no questions, WH-questions (using the underlined word) and tag questions.

Examples for the sentence “Mother Teresa was a Catholic nun.”

Negative: Mother Teresa was not a Catholic nun.

Yes/No Question: Was Mother Teresa a Catholic nun?

WH-Question: Who was a Catholic nun?

Tag Question: Mother Teresa was a Catholic nun, wasn’t she?
1. She was born on August 26, 1910.

**Negative:** She was not born on August 26, 1910.

**Yes/No Question:** Was she born on August 26, 1910?

**WH-Question:** When was she born?

**Tag Question:** She was born on August 26, 1910, wasn’t she?

2. When she was 18, she joined a convent.

**Negative:** When she was 18, she did not join a convent.

**Yes/No Question:** Did she join a convent when she was 18?

**WH-Question:** When did she join a convent?

**Tag Question:** When she was 18, she joined a convent, didn’t she?

3. She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.

**Negative:** She didn’t win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.

**Yes/No Question:** Did she win the Nobel Peace Price in 1979?

**WH-Question:** What did she win in 1979?

**Tag Question:** She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, didn’t she?
C. Write the correct word in the blank.

1. Agnes’s mother was a devout Catholic.
   a) a   b) an   c) the

2. Her mother taught her to help other people.
   a) she   b) her   c) hers

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