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Forty famous faces, A to Z

Many of the world's great artists, composers, entertainers, inventors, scientists and sports people have come from Europe. We mentioned some of them in earlier chapters. We can't possibly include them all in this book, so here are just 40 more names, in alphabetical order and from various European countries. One of them is there for a different kind of "fame". Can you spot him?

We have left a blank space on page 29 for your own personal choice. It could be someone famous from your own country, or your favourite European sports team or pop group. Why not find a picture of them and stick it into the blank space, along with a few facts about them.



U2 Tim Berners-Lee

Name	Nationality	What they did
Abba	Sweden	Pop group: their songs were big hits around the world in the 1970s
Štefan Banič	Slovakia	Inventor: he invented the parachute in 1913
The Beatles	United Kingdom	Pop group: their songs were big hits around the world in the 1960s
Henri Becquerel	France	Scientist: he discovered radioactivity in 1896



Ludwig van Beethoven	Germany	Composer: wrote a lot of great music. The <i>Ode to Joy</i> (the European anthem) comes from his ninth symphony, written in 1823.
Tim Berners-Lee	United Kingdom	Inventor: he invented the World Wide Web, on which the internet is based, in 1989.
Niels Bohr	Denmark	Scientist: won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1922, for his discoveries about the structure of atoms.
Robert Boyle	Ireland	Scientist: famous for his experiments on gases and the discovery of ' <i>Boyle's Law</i> ' in 1662.
Charlie Chaplin	United Kingdom	Film director and one of the world's funniest actors. His great films include <i>Modern times</i> (1936).
Fryderyk Chopin	Poland	Composer and pianist (1810-1849): he wrote many piano pieces including his famous <i>Nocturnes</i> .
Nadia Comaneci	Romania	Athlete: the first person ever to score full marks (10 out of 10) for gymnastics in the Olympic games, in 1976.
Marie Curie (Maria Skłodowska)	Poland	Scientist: with her husband Pierre she discovered radium – a radioactive metal. They were awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1903.
Salvador Dalí	Spain	Artist(1904-89): famous for his strange, dreamlike paintings in the ' <i>surrealist</i> ' style



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Marie Curie Pablo Picasso Federico Fellini

Name	Nationality	What they did
Marlene Dietrich	Germany	Actress: she starred in many films, including the original version of <i>Around the world in 80 days</i> (1956).
Vlad Dracul	Romania	15th century count whose son was famous in waretime for impaling captured enemies, giving rise to the spine-chilling tale of Dracula.
Antonín Dvořák	Bohemia (now part of the Czech Republic)	Composer: his great pieces include the <i>New World Symphony</i> (1893).
Albert Einstein	Germany	Scientist: in 1905 he discovered 'relativity' – in other words, how matter, energy and time are all related to one another
Federico Fellini	Italy	Film director: his great films, including <i>La Strada</i> , (1954), won him five Oscar awards.



Milos Forman	Czech Republic	Film director: he won Oscars for his films <i>Amadeus</i> (1984) and <i>One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest</i> (1975).
Sigmund Freud	Austria	Psychiatrist (1856-1939): he developed 'psychoanalysis' – a way of explaining how our minds work
Justine Henin	Belgium	Tennis player: she won a gold medal at the 2004 Olympic games
Thierry Henry	France	Footballer: the only player ever to have won English football's prestigious Football Writers' Association 'Footballer of the Year' award three times (2003, 2004, 2006).
Hergé (Georges Rémi)	Belgium	Artist and writer: he created the <i>Tintin</i> adventures (1929) and many other comic book series
Heinrich Hertz	Germany	Scientist: in 1888 he proved that radio waves exist
Christo (Javacheff)	Bulgaria	Artist: famous for 'wrapping' buildings, monuments, even trees, in fabrics, like he did with the German Parliament in 1995 – <i>the Wrapped Reichstag</i> .
Franz Liszt	Hungary	Composer (1811-86): he wrote some of the world's most difficult piano music, such as the <i>Transcendental Studies</i>
Claude Monet	France	Artist(1840-1926): famous for his 'impressionist' style paintings, including several series of <i>Water-lilies</i> .
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	Austria	Composer: he wrote a lot of great music, including the opera <i>The Magic Flute</i> (1791).



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Name	Nationality	What they did
Isaac Newton	Britain	Scientist: in the 1600s he discovered how gravity works, and how the planets move through space.
Alfred Nobel	Sweden	Scientist: he invented dynamite in 1866, and he founded the Nobel Prize for great achievements.
Erkki Nool	Estonia	Athlete: he won a gold medal in the decathlon at the 2000 Olympic games.
Louis Pasteur	France	Scientist: he discovered that many diseases are caused by germs, and in 1862 he invented <i>pasteurization</i> , a way of killing germs in food.
Pablo Picasso	Spain	Artist: famous for his paintings in the 'cubist' style, including <i>Les demoiselles d'Avignon</i> (1907).



Marco Polo	Venice or Dalmatia (today part of Croatia)	Great explorer: more than 700 years ago he travelled through Asia to China, and back again.
Rembrandt	The Netherlands	Artist: famous for his use of rich colour, light and shadow. His paintings include <i>The Night Watch</i> (1642).
Jean Sibelius	Finland	Composer: his great pieces include <i>Finlandia</i> (1900).
U2	Ireland	Rock band: their songs have been big hits around the world since 1980.
Vincent Van Gogh	The Netherlands	Artist (1853-90): his many paintings include several of <i>Sunflowers</i> .
Antonio Vivaldi	Italy	Composer: he wrote many pieces, including <i>The four seasons</i> (1725).
Alessandro Volta	Italy	Scientist: around 1799 he invented the electric battery
Thierry Henry	France	Footballer: the only player ever to have won the Football Writers' Association 'Footballer of the Year' three times (2003, 2004, 2006).