

Significant People

Reg Smythe (Reginald Smyth)



Reg Smythe was a cartoonist, who was born in Hartlepool on 10th July, 1917. He was the son of a shipyard worker named Richard Oliver Smyth, and Richard's wife Florence.

He grew up poor and left school at age 14. He became a butcher's errand boy so that he could earn some money. In 1936, he joined the British Army and was posted in Egypt. He later served in World War 2 as a machine gunner. He developed his drawing skills during this time, and sold his first cartoons to a newspaper in Cairo, which is the capitol city of Egypt.

He later worked as a telephone clerk at the General Post Office in London. He worked on his artwork by designing posters and eventually sold his cartoons to newspapers such as The London Evening Standard and The Daily Mirror.

His most famous cartoon character was created in 1957. He was called Andy Capp, and was a negatively stereotyped northern man,

who was lazy, did not have a job and liked to spend all of his time in the pub! Andy Capp was a national success and was later turned into a musical in 1982 and a television show in 1988.

Reg Smythe returned to Hartlepool, where he died on 13th June 1998. In 2007, a bronze statue was made of Andy Capp, which stands proudly looking out to sea on The Headland.

Andy Capp cartoons are still produced today by different artists, they are loved by many around the world!



“ This looks like the place, 'Arry ! ”

Task 1 – Reading Comprehension

- Q1. What was Reg Smythe's father's job?
- Q2. Why did Reg Smythe become a butcher's errand boy?
- Q3. What was Reg Smythe's job in the Second World War?
- Q4. What is the capital city of Egypt?
- Q5. What was the name of one of the newspapers that he sold his cartoons to?
- Q6. What was the name of his most famous cartoon character?
- Q7. What year was Andy Capp made into a TV show?
- Q8. What type of material is the Andy Capp statue made from?

Task 2 – Maths Challenge

Q1. Reg Smythe was born on 10th July 1917. What was the date 5 days before he was born?

Q2. He left school when he was 14. How old was he 10 years after he left school?

Q3. The cost of the newspaper was 20p. How much would it cost for 2 newspapers?

Q4. The Andy Capp musical was made in 1982. The TV show was made in 1988. How many years after the musical was the TV show made?

Task 3 – Create your own cartoon!

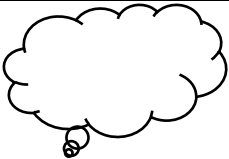
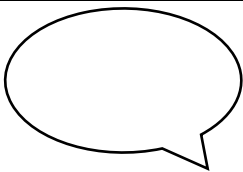
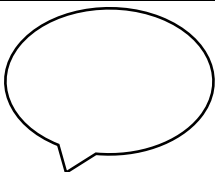
Use the grid below to create your own cartoon character.

Put the title of your cartoon in the box below.

Use the thought bubble to let people know what your character is thinking!

Use the speech bubbles to give your character a voice!

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