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Bio4Kids: Frida Kahlo (1907-1954)

Brief Outline

One of the most famous female artists, Frida Kahlo taught herself how to paint. She first started making paintings after she was badly hurt in a bus accident when she was eighteen years old. Forced to rest while her broken bones healed, Kahlo made her first self-portrait.

Born on July 6, 1907, Kahlo grew up in the family's home-*Casa Azul* (Blue House)-in the Coyoacán area of Mexico City. She was only a schoolgirl when she met artist Diego Rivera for the first time. They were later married after the famous bus accident that changed Kahlo's life forever. The two had a stormy relationship and Kahlo was saddened by her failed efforts to have a child. She also had to contend with health problems, many of which were related to the bus crash.

Many of the hardships Kahlo experienced found their way on to her canvases. She often painted images of herself, her family, and her relationships. Over time, Kahlo became well known for her unusual and vivid works. She showed her art in many parts of the world, drawing interest from critics and art collectors.

Today Frida Kahlo is considered one of the leading Mexican artists of the twentieth century as well as one of the pioneering women in art. Her paintings can be seen in many leading museums around the world, and her beloved Blue House is now a museum dedicated to her life and work.

Notable Quotes

"My painting carries with it the message of pain."

"I paint self-portraits because I am so often alone, because I am the person I know best."

"I never paint dreams or nightmares. I paint my own reality."

Fun Facts

Mexican actress Salma Hayek portrayed Frida Kahlo in the 2002 film "Frida."

Frida's 1943 painting "Roots" sold for \$5.6 million on auction, setting a record for the sale of a Latin American work of art.

Frida painting, "My Birth" (1932), is owned by Madonna.

Frida often claimed 1910, the start of the Mexican revolution, as her birth year in order to be more closely associated with the important event.

Frida's self-portrait "The Frame" is the first work by a 20th century Mexican artist to be purchased by the Louvre museum.