



National Service Inclusion Project

Famous People with Disabilities Worksheet

a. Whoopi Goldberg	(1)___I am currently a very popular movie star. Some of the movies I have starred in are “Jerry Maguire,” “Top Gun,” and “The Last Samurai.” I learn my lines by listening to a tape because I have dyslexia.
b. Tom Cruise	
c. Walt Disney	(2)___Fans remember me best for my performances in the movies “The Color Purple” and “Sister Act,” but I am also a comedian. I have struggled with a learning disability all my life.
d. Cher	
e. Harriet Tubman	(3)___I was slow in school and had a hard time doing my work. I didn’t do anything well until I realized a real strength of mine was drawing. I became a well-known cartoonist and movie producer. Some famous amusement parks have my name.
	(4)___I have always had to deal with my disability. My weakest subject has always been in math. Even though I cannot balance a checkbook, I have become a movie star and won an Oscar for my lead in “Moonstruck.” My daughter, Chastity, has learning disabilities too.
	(5)___As a child, an overseer struck me. The blow fractured my skull, causing me to have narcolepsy for the rest of my life. I rescued hundreds of slaves through the Underground Railroad.

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f. John Mellancamp	(6)___As a boy, I had such a severe stutter that, for eight years, I refused to talk and was functionally mute. Today, I am the voice of CNN and Bell Atlantic. I am also known for being the voice of Darth Vader in the original "Star Wars."
g. James Earl Jones	
h. Leonardo DaVinci	(7)___As a young child, I was born with Spina Bifida, but unlike others I never used a wheelchair. I grew up to be a singer and very patriotic. I wrote songs about USA and freedom. Some of my songs were "Jack and Diane" and "Pink Houses."
i. Marlee Matlin	
j. Michael J. Fox	(8)___I am the first actress who is deaf to win an Oscar. I won a 1987 Academy Award for Best Actress in "Children of a Lesser God."
	(9)___I always had trouble learning. My teachers said I was 'obnoxious' and had 'artistic talent.' During my lifetime my artistic talent was expressed through architecture, painting, sculpture, and engineering. One of my best known paintings is the Mona Lisa.
	(10)___I am an actor who starred in television series such as "Family Ties" and "Spin City." It was during my time on "Spin City" that I revealed to the world that I had Parkinson's disease. This affects my ability to walk, move, and speak clearly.

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k. Lucille Ball	(11)___My teachers thought I was slow and a dreamer. I didn't learn to read until I was nine. I couldn't get into college until I spent an extra year in preparation. After many failed jobs, I developed the Theory of Relativity.
l. Carrie Fisher	
m. Albert Einstein	(12)___Because my head was very large at birth, people thought I was abnormal. My mother took me out of school and taught me. As an adult, I created the electric light bulb and the phonograph.
n. Chris Burke	
o. Thomas Edison	(13)___I was known as the "Queen" of physical comedy. I had severe rheumatoid arthritis as a young woman while working as a model. I went on to star and produce a hit comedy on television with my husband, Desi Arnaz.
	(14)___I was born with Down Syndrome and the doctors told my parents that I should be placed in an institution. My parents ignored the doctor's advice, and I grew up to be a television star and public speaker on disabilities. I played Corky on "Life Goes On."
	(15)___I was diagnosed with manic depression. I was known for playing Princess Leia in the Star Wars series. I live my life to the fullest and now take daily medication to help me.

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