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### WALT DISNEY

I started thinking of the animation, and beautiful pictures by using my imagination. It seems like there are many words to describe all the amazing images, which was my personal interest toward the person I intend to write about. For me, Walt Disney should be admired for his views and visions, unique ability, and extraordinary achievements.

Through his strong perceptions, Walt Disney displayed his ongoing works by connecting and making people's life more enjoyable and fun. His unique ability helped him to transform people's imagination to reality. Walt Disney's optimism and wisdom encouraged him to become a great success in his career, while enabling him to attract people's interest. In mentioning his achievements, Walt Disney became a great inspiration in the field of animation and cartoons. He changed the entertainment industry into such an amazing field, as we know today. During his 43-year career, which extended the development of the motion picture industry as a modern art, Walt Disney proved himself and his innovations as a genius part of American art. Everything he has done during his lifetime until now still continues to be praised and remembered, especially his ideas and his creations. Walt Disney and his major events are the reasons why he is famous today.

Walt Disney was born December 5, 1901. He was interested in art and continued to develop his skill in this field. He started his career as a cartoonist in the early age in 1919. After, he began his own studio named Laugh-O-Gram, but the company went bankrupt because the firm's revenues didn't match expenses. By 1927 he was successful for producing the movie *Oswald the Lucky Rabbit*, but he could not earn any profit for his success because Universal Pictures owned the rights to the production. Walt Disney was dissatisfied, so he went to work on

his own. His success began when he made the production of Mickey Mouse. He received his first Academy Award for the best short movie of *Flowers and Trees* and special award for *Mickey Mouse*. While he started up his own business Walt Disney productions, it gained reputation and strength.

In 1941, because of the major strike by his writers and animators, Walt Disney became an active member of a leading anti- communist organization. He later distanced himself from this activity, but he supported and associated with anti-labor and anti-Semitic philosophy (Pettinger 2014). For religion, he viewed it as beneficial in guiding people's lives.

Most of Walt Disney productions were very successful and popular in the market of animation. During World War II, the Disney productions demand dropped and he regained his fame and actively established quality animations until the late 1940s. He started to expand and innovate the Disney operation into conversational action movies after he finished the production of *Cinderella* and *Peter Pan* by the 1950s. He continued to make several unique cartoons for action movies and claimed the best award during late 1960. These included *Treasure Island* 1950, *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* 1954, *Pollyanna* 1960, and *Mary Poppins* 1960 (Pettinger 2014).

The Disney Empire continued to expand its successful powers and size. Meanwhile, Walt Disney's ambition was even greater. He started his giant project and built Disneyland in late 1940s. He wanted this massive amusement park to be the only place created on earth where every kid's dream became true in the land of Disney. The Disneyland Theme park was announced to open in 1955. The first and only magical place for everyone that could turn their beautiful imagination to become true has been very successful for Walt Disney. This was the reason motivated him to build the second one in Orlando, Florida in 1965. On December 15, 1966 Walt Disney's life ended with lung cancer.

Walt Disney has been remembered and admired throughout national and international entertainment areas. He was a great inspiration of hard work, creativity, quality of leadership, and generosity. He taught us some useful and simple lessons focusing on achievements traits like do what you love, do it seriously, help others, and never give up. In addition, Walt Disney struggled and took his work very seriously. His success never came immediately, but it took him many years to become popular. Walt Disney impressed me a lot through what he has done. He was not only a great role model for young people's strengths but also an important person to be proud of in the American history of entertainment. His works and his achievements will be with us forever.

If I could travel back in history and spend a day with Mr. Walt Disney, I would ask some questions such as:

Who or what inspired you? I knew he made what he loved, but there might have been something else standing behind his success. I would ask him to teach me some techniques and strategies to get over obstacles and how to manage all those steps. According to Neal Gabler, the author of the book *Walt Disney: The Triumph of American Imagination* 2007, Walt Disney was inspired by the many things that surrounded him. These sources of inspiration helped to shape his art. Disney considered his childhood Marceline, Missouri as the foundation of his life and where he formed his fantasy. It mentioned from this book that “For Walt they came to represent something else of importance he took from Marceline: a nascent self-awareness and the first acknowledgement of his talent” (Gabler 14). Walt Disney was also inspired by his Aunt Margaret who encouraged him to use his imagination to enhance his artistic talent. She bought him a drawing table and pencils as a gift. Walt Disney had a love of drawing since he was old enough to hold a pencil. While still a child, his drawings received enormous compliments in

which they called him an artist. Walt Disney also forged his personal mythology at Kansas City where he lived his adulthood and began his early career as a cartoonist (Gabler 15).

Who and what most contributed to your success? “Walt Disney had motivation for starting a studio besides the tenacious pursuit of animation and the fame and profit he was sure to accrue from it” (Gable 56). This self-determination gave him the strength to pursue his dreams. Disney also had clearly inherited his father’s entrepreneurial tendencies, which was an advantage for him to transform his talent into a career. He gained knowledge while working at Kansas City Film Advertising. It was here that he learned how films were made. Meanwhile, he was essentially self-taught as an animator; “he wrote to an admirer many years later, ‘I gained my first information on animation from a book called *Animated Cartoons* by Edwin G. Lutz from Public Library of Kansas City’” (Michael 26). He received more encouragement, support, protection, and confidence from his brother Roy and family (Gabler 60). He had a great companion named Iwerks with whom he later formed a company in 1923. All the aforementioned were elements that contributed to Walt Disney’s success.

How did you know if people would like what you made? I thought it must have been very stressful to create or think of such amazing imaginative drawings that have never been before. Walt Disney ‘s enthusiasm and self-assurance enabled him to believe that animation would be successful. He believed in his creativity and ability to make his creations come to life by giving them believable, and real life characteristics. As a result, he was able to capture the imagination of audiences through his innovative use of cartoons to bring them uplifting stories that carried moral. His efforts became a reality when he created films that captured people’s interests, enabling them to accept and love his creations. Walt Disney made exceptional cartoon characters, movies, and soundtracks that were unlike others. They were very attractive, lively,

and natural. It is mentioned in his biography that Walt Disney used his technique to make his narratives unique. He did this because he realized he could not dispute the New York animators in their drawing, but he could at least challenge them in their narrative deficiencies. He did what the New York animators almost never did (Garble 67). These reasons made his products become very popular in American entertainment.

How did you start Disneyland? Walt Disney had a vision of a place where children and parents could have fun together and a place for teacher and students to discover greater ways of understanding and education (Michael 243). He dreamed of a *magical park* that would be unlike any other theme park ever created on earth. This massive theme park was planned to be built on 8-acre of land next to the Disney studio, but the plan was delayed due to World War II. In 1953, finally found the ideal location for his park, which would be built in rural Anaheim, California. Walt Disney purchased 160-acre of orange groves where he would eventually build rivers, waterfalls, mountains, and have flying elephant, giant teacups, a fairytale castle, scenic railway, and moon rockets inside of one magic kingdom that he named *Disneyland*. Disney used funding from Walt Disney, Inc. to financially support this project. However, it was not until July 17, 1955 that Disneyland finally opened to the public.

Walt Disney's life started in a small town. He moved to very noisy city where he forged his talents and through great effort; he was able to become successful and a very famous contributor in the American entertainment industry. He reinvented animation and amusement, and was able to change America's view of their own history and values. Walt Disney and his legacy still lives on and will continue to do so. Through Disneyland and Disneyworld, as well as the world of animation, he will always be there.

Regarding to the four questions that I proposed to ask Mr. Walt Disney, I have found sufficient information to support the answers from three sources. They include one website and two biography books of Walt Disney that written by the historians. Therefore, I decided to end this essay by answering to the questions using direct quotes and messages from these sources.

## Works Cited

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