

The Nobel Prize

The Nobel Prizes were established by Alfred Bernard Nobel, the Swedish chemist and inventor of dynamite. Nobel died in 1896. It was included in his will that the interest* on a multimillion-dollar fund was to be awarded every year in the form of prizes 'to those who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit* on mankind' in each of five fields: physiology and medicine, chemistry, physics, literature, and world peace.

The Nobel Prizes were first awarded in 1901. In recent years the prize in each category has been worth about 50,000 dollars, which may be divided among two or more winners.

Marie Curie got the Nobel Prize in two categories: Physics, for studying radiation, and Chemistry, for the discovery of radium and polonium. Ernest Hemingway was awarded the Nobel Prize for his novel, *The Old Man and the Sea*. Albert Szent-Györgyi is also among the prizewinners.

Rudyard Kipling was the first English author to receive the prize for literature. He was acknowledged as the foremost poet and storyteller of the British Empire.

interest – kamat

confer the greatest benefit – legnagyobb mértékben a javát szolgálja

143. Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) lived in a time of transition*; he partly belongs to colonial days, partly to the establishment* of the U.S. He was a statesman, a diplomat, an author, a printer, an inventor and a scientist. He signed both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

It would be hard to list all that he did. He introduced weather reports into American journalism, established America's first circulating library, founded a school, a hospital and many other things. His experiments with electricity are well-known in physics even today. He also invented the lightning rod. The famous Franklin Institute can be visited in Philadelphia.

Before the war with England he stayed in London, trying to secure better conditions* for the colonies. He soon realized that British rule would have to end. After the revolution he held high governmental posts.

transition – átmenet
establishment – államhatalom
conditions – feltételek

Admiral Nelson

Horatio Nelson joined the navy early, he was 15 when on an expedition to the Arctic the water round the ship was frozen for months. One morning he saw a bear moving across the ice, got his gun and off he went after the bear. When he was close to it, on the other side of a gap* in the ice, he pulled the trigger, but the gun did not go off. The bear then turned on him, but by good luck the ice began to move at that moment and the beast could not reach him.

His later battles he fought with the same bravery* plus brilliant tactics. However, in one battle he lost his right eye, another cost him his right arm. Soon after losing his eye, Nelson was in a battle against the Danes. When he heard that Admiral Parker ordered a signal to be put up to tell his ships to stop fighting, he put his telescope to his blind eye and said, 'I do not see any signal. Fight on!' They fought and won the battle.

Before beating the French navy at Trafalgar, which put an end to Napoleon's dream of invading Britain, he said, "England expects that every man will do his duty*". Nelson died in the battle.

gap – repedés
bravery – bátorság
duty – kötelesség