

A Short Biography of Mary Robinson

Read this short biography of Mary Robinson. Unfortunately a lot of important information is missing! Work with a partner and prepare questions to find out the missing information. Your questions must be grammatically correct!

Mary Robinson was born in Ballina on _____. Both of her parents were doctors by profession. Her maiden name was _____. She studied law in Trinity College and qualified as a barrister before becoming Professor of Criminal Law at the university when she was still only _____ years of age.

She was elected to the Seanad (the Irish Senate) for the first time in 1969 and she served there as the representative of the University of Dublin for _____ years. In 1970 she married Nicholas Robinson. Her parents were not happy at the marriage because _____ and so they didn't attend the wedding.

When she was first elected, she was an Independent Senator but in the mid 1970s she joined the Labour party. In 1988 she and her husband set up _____. In 1990 the Labour leader Dick Spring asked her to stand as a candidate in the presidential election. At first, most people didn't think she had any chance of winning but in the end she beat the favourite _____ and in December 1990 she was inaugurated in Dublin Castle as the first woman President of

Ireland. During her presidency she was extremely popular and even her former political opponents and enemies said she was doing a good job.

There were many famous moments during her presidency. In 1993 she was the first Irish President to meet _____ and in 1992 she was the first head of state to visit Rwanda after the crisis there. In 1994 she also visited _____. She put a candle in the window of the kitchen in Áras an Uachtaráin as a symbol of the millions of Irish people who have emigrated.

She resigned a few months before the end of her seven year term so that _____. After her first term in this position she wanted to continue for another term but in the end this wasn't possible because of opposition from the White House.

Today Mary Robinson is still a busy woman. She spends her time _____ and lecturing She has _____ children.

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Read this short biography of Mary Robinson. Unfortunately a lot of important information is missing! Work with a partner and prepare questions to find out the missing information. Your questions must be grammatically correct!

Mary Robinson was born in _____ on 21 May 1944. Both of her parents were _____ by profession. Her maiden name was Bourke. She studied _____ in Trinity College and qualified as a barrister before becoming Professor of Criminal Law at the university when she was still only 25 years of age.

She was elected to the Seanad (the Irish Senate) for the first time in _____ and she served there as the representative of the University of Dublin for twenty years. In 1970 she married _____ . Her parents were not happy at the marriage because he was a Protestant and so they didn't attend the wedding.

When she was first elected, she was an Independent Senator but in the mid 1970s she joined the _____ party. In 1988 she and her husband set up the Irish Centre for European Law. In 1990 _____ asked her to stand as a candidate in the presidential election. At first, most people didn't think she had any chance of winning but in the end she beat the favourite Brian Lenihan and in December

1990 she was inaugurated in _____ as the first woman President of Ireland. During her presidency she was extremely popular and even her former political opponents and enemies said she was doing a good job.

There were many famous moments during her presidency. In 1993 she was the first Irish President to meet the Queen of England and in 1992 she was the first head of state to visit _____ after the crisis there. In 1994 she also visited Somalia. She put a _____ in the window of the kitchen in Áras an Uachtaráin as a symbol of the millions of Irish people who have emigrated.

She resigned a few months before the end of her seven year term so that she could become UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. After her first term in this position she wanted to continue for another term but in the end this wasn't possible because _____.

Today Mary Robinson is still a busy woman. She spends her time writing and _____. She has three children.

A Short Biography of Mary Robinson – Reference sheet

Mary Robinson was born in Ballina on 21 May 1944. Both her parents were doctors by profession. Her maiden name was Bourke. She studied law in Trinity College and qualified as a barrister before becoming Professor of Criminal Law at the university when she was still only 25 years of age.

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When she was first elected, she was an Independent Senator but in the mid 1970s she joined the Labour party. In 1988 she and her husband set up the Irish centre for European Law In 1990 the leader of the Labour party, Dick Spring asked her to stand as a candidate in the presidential election. At first, most people didn't think she had any chance of winning but in the end she beat the favourite Brian Lenihan and in December 1990 she was inaugurated in Dublin Castle as the first woman President of Ireland. During her presidency she was extremely popular and even her former political opponents and enemies said she was doing a good job.

There were many famous moments during her presidency. In 1993 she was the first Irish President to meet the Queen of England, and in 1992 she was the first head of state to visit Rwanda after the crisis there. In 1994 she also visited Somalia. She put a candle in the window of the kitchen in Áras an Uachtaráin as a symbol of the millions of Irish people who had emigrated.

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Today, Mary Robinson is still a busy woman. She spends her time writing and lecturing . She has three children.

Mary Robinson Biography

MODULE:Media

LEVEL:R1T

Time:40- 50 minutes	Focus: Reading / practising past simple question forms
Class organisation: groups/ pairs	Type of activity: Information gap reading
Can be adapted to:	Prerequisites: Question forms in the past simple
ELP: Read short news article	

In Class Procedure at a Glance

1. Ask the class if anybody knows the name of the current President of Ireland . (Mary McAleese)
2. See if anybody knows who her predecessor was
3. See if they know where the President lives (Aras an Uachtarain, Phoenix Park
4. Elicit from class how questions are formed in the past simple.
5. Explain that they are going to read a short article adapted from the website Wikipedia but there is important information missing. Their task to find the missing information.
6. Divide the class into 2 or 4 groups depending on numbers.
7. Get groups to form circles if possible so that everybody in each group can participate.
8. Distribute worksheet A to one group and worksheet B to the second group.
9. The two groups must now formulate the questions they need to ask to find the missing information.
10. Move between the two groups helping if necessary
11. Once the groups have drawn up their questions put the students in pairs, one from the A group and one from the B group.
12. Pairs exchange information to complete the text.
13. Check answers in plenary. Distribute reference sheet for students to check answers/read (optional).