Twitter is a social media website and a “tweet” is an update made on the Twitter site. A tweet is a short message of 140 characters or less that describes whatever the author is doing at the moment, but can also contain personal messages, random thoughts, links to other tweets or websites, or anything of interest to the person who wrote it.

**Below you will find a brief biographical sketch of several historically important individuals. Read the bio and then in the exercise that follows, match the tweet to the person to which it belongs.**

**The Bubonic Plague** (1346–53)

Also known as the Black Death; was one of the most devastating pandemics in human history, resulting in the deaths of an estimated 33 million people and peaking in Europe in the years 1346–53. The Black Death is thought to have originated in the arid plains of Central Asia, where it then travelled along the Silk Road, reaching Crimea by 1343. From there, it was most likely carried by Oriental rat fleas living on the black rats that were regular passengers on merchant ships. Spreading throughout the Mediterranean and Europe, the Black Death is estimated to have killed 30–60% of Europe’s total population.

**Johannes Gutenberg** (1398-1468)

A German blacksmith, goldsmith, printer, and publisher who introduced printing to Europe. His introduction of mechanical movable type printing to Europe started the Printing Revolution and is widely regarded as the most important event of the modern period. It played a key role in the development of the Renaissance, Reformation, the Age of Enlightenment, and the Scientific revolution. When the printing press was invented there was a shift from the laborious manuscript making to printing that allowed many copies of written work to be quickly created, in turn providing greater access to information for all and providing the framework for the gradual increase of societal literacy.

**Joan of Arc** (1412-1431)

Is considered a heroine of France for her role during the Lancastrian phase of the Hundred Years’ War, and was canonized as a Roman Catholic saint. Joan said she received visions of the Archangel Michael, Saint Margaret, and Saint Catherine instructing her to support Charles VII and recover France from English domination late in the Hundred Years’ War. The uncrowned King Charles VII sent 18 yr-old Joan to the siege of Orléans as part of a relief mission. She gained prominence after the siege was lifted in only nine days. This event boosted French morale and paved the way for the final French victory. Captured a year later, Joan was burned at the stake by the English and their French collaborators as a heretic.

**Christopher Columbus** (1450-1506)

An Italian explorer, navigator, and colonizer. Under the sponsorship of the Catholic Monarchs of Spain, he completed four voyages across the Atlantic Ocean in search of gold and glory. Those voyages and his efforts to establish permanent settlements on the island of Hispaniola initiated the Spanish colonization of the New World. Never admitting that he had reached a continent previously unknown to Europeans rather than the East Indies he had set out for, Columbus called the inhabitants of the lands he visited *indios*.

**Michelangelo Buonarroti** (1475-1564)

An Italian sculptor, painter, architect, poet, and engineer of the High Renaissance who exerted an unparalleled influence on the development of Western art. Considered as the greatest living artist in his lifetime, he has since been held as one of the greatest artists of all time, Michelangelo painted the Sistine Chapel ceiling from 1508 to 1512. Despite making few forays beyond the arts, his versatility in the disciplines he took up was of such a high order that he is often considered a contender for the title of the archetypal Renaissance man, along with his fellow Italian Leonardo da Vinci.

**Martin Luther** (1483-1546)

A German friar, priest and professor of theology who was a seminal figure in the Protestant Reformation. Luther came to reject several teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church. He strongly disputed the claim that freedom from God’s punishment for sin could be purchased with money, a practice known as purchasing an indulgence. He confronted indulgence salesman Johann Tetzel, a Dominican friar, with his *Ninety-Five Theses* in 1517. His refusal to retract all of his writings at the demand of Pope Leo X in 1520 resulted in his excommunication by the Pope and condemnation as an outlaw by the Emperor. His followers soon split from the Roman Catholic Church to begin the Protestant tradition.

**King Henry VIII** (1491-1547)

Henry Tudor, son of Henry VII of England and Elizabeth York, became the King of England in 1509 following the death of his brother, Arthur. Henry’s second marriage to Anne Boleyn produced a daughter, Princess Elizabeth, and failed to produce a male child. Henry got rid of Anne on charges of treason which were almost certainly false, and she was executed in 1536. He married six times, beheaded two of his wives and was the main instigator of the English Reformation. His only surviving son, Edward VI, succeeded him after his death on January 28, 1547.

**Marie Antoinette** (1755-1793)

An Archduchess of Austria who was Dauphine of France from 1770 to 1774 and Queen of France and Navarre from 1774 to 1792. Marie Antoinette helped provoke the popular unrest that led to the French Revolution and to the overthrow of the monarchy in August 1792. She became a symbol of the excesses of the monarchy and is often credited with the famous quote “Let them eat cake,” although there is no evidence she actually said it. As a 20-year consort to Louis XVI, she was beheaded nine months after he was, on October 16, 1793, by order of the Revolutionary tribunal.

**Napoléon Bonaparte** (1769-1821)

A French military and political leader who rose to prominence during the French Revolution and its associated wars. Napoleon won most of his wars and the vast majority of his battles, rapidly gaining control of continental Europe before his ultimate defeat in 1815. One of the greatest commanders in history, his campaigns are studied at military schools worldwide and he remains one of the most celebrated and controversial political figures in Western history. In civil affairs, Napoleon implemented foundational liberal reforms in France and across Europe. His lasting legal achievement, the Napoleonic Code, has been adopted in various forms by a quarter of the world’s legal systems, from Japan in East Asia to Quebec in North America. The British press sometimes depicted Napoleon as much smaller than average height, and this image persists although he was 5 ft 6 in tall, which was average height for the period.

**Adolf Hitler** (1889-1945)

An Austrian-born German politician who was the leader of the Nazi Party. He was Chancellor of Germany from 1933 to 1945 and Führer (“leader”) of Nazi Germany from 1934 to 1945. Hitler met with British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain in September of 1938 in Munich, where they made an agreement that Germany would not invade any other countries. Mr. Chamberlain declared the accord with the Germans signaled “peace for our time,” after he had read it to a jubilant crowd gathered in west London. A year later Hitler derided the agreement as just a “scrap of paper,” invading Poland on September 1, 1939. As the dictator of Nazi Germany, Hitler was at the center of World War II in Europe and the Holocaust.

Write the name of the individual from the bank of names below in the blank under the matching tweet.

Adolf Hitler

Bubonic Plague

Christopher Columbus

Joan of Arc

Johannes Gutenberg

King Henry VIII

Marie Antoinette

Martin Luther

Michelangelo

Napoléon Bonaparte

**1. Tweet:** @boleynisqueen no sons = must be guilty of sumpin #shouldhavemarriedmary

Tweet Author: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**2. Tweet:** @Chamberlain says “peace for our time” lol #hadmyfingerscrossed

Tweet Author: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**3. Tweet:** @Tetzel4indulgences SO many things wrong with what you do – 95 to be exact

#churchaintgonnalikeit #bringontheexcommunication

Tweet Author: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**4. Tweet:** Advice for young artists: Visit the site before quoting a price for a “simple

ceiling paint job.” #shouldaletdavincihaveit

Tweet Author: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Tweet:** Finally finished invention – disappointed to learn that few can actually read

#whydidntithinkofthat

Tweet Author: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**6. Tweet:** let’s do this thang #militarygenious #dontbejealous

Tweet Author: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Tweet:** OMG. Forgot I left the BBQ on. Nothing I hate more than burned steak. #brb

Tweet Author: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**8. Tweet:** told the peasants to eat cake lololol #yolo #peasantproblems

Tweet Author: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**9. Tweet:** woke up with a weird lump in my armpit #imsureitsnothing #partyatmyplace

Tweet Author: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**10. Tweet:** WTH am I? #lost #maybeitsindia

Tweet Author: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_