

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Alexander Calder: The Master of Mobile Art

### Short Answer Key

1. Alexander Calder's family background influenced his artistic journey by exposing him to art from an early age. His father and grandfather were sculptors, and his mother was a painter. This creative environment nurtured his artistic talents and provided a foundation for his future career.
2. Calder's mobile sculptures are characterized by their delicate, balanced structures that move with the slightest breeze. They interact with their environment, creating ever-changing shapes and forms. The movement of mobiles adds an element of surprise and dynamism to the viewer's experience.
3. "Stables" are stationary sculptures created by Calder. They differ from his mobiles in that they do not move. Stables are often characterized by abstract, geometric shapes and bold, sweeping lines. While mobiles invite interaction and motion, stables are static but share Calder's distinctive artistic style.
4. One of Alexander Calder's famous outdoor sculptures is "Flamingo," located in Chicago's Federal Plaza. This monumental stabile stands over 50 feet tall and is made of bright red steel. Its bold and abstract design adds a striking visual element to the urban landscape, becoming an iconic symbol of the city.
5. Alexander Calder's innovative approach to sculpture has left a lasting impact on the art world by introducing movement, interaction, and abstraction into the medium. His playful and kinetic sculptures challenged traditional notions of sculpture, inspiring contemporary artists to explore new dimensions of artistic expression.

