

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Frederick the Great

Frederick the Great, born in 1712, was a king who changed the course of history in Europe. His real name was Frederick II, and he ruled a country called Prussia, located where parts of Germany and Poland are today. Frederick's early life was not easy. His father, King Frederick William I, was very strict and wanted Frederick to become a strong military leader. However, young Frederick loved music, books, and learning more than swords and battles.



As a boy, Frederick secretly played the flute and read books about philosophy. But when he became king in 1740, he realized he had to balance his love for the arts with the responsibilities of ruling. Frederick worked hard to make Prussia a powerful and well-respected kingdom. He is famous for his intelligence and his ability to think quickly in tough situations.

One of Frederick's greatest achievements was modernizing Prussia. He improved the government by hiring smart people, even if they were not nobles. He also made schools better, so more children could learn to read and write. Frederick loved music so much that he invited famous composers to his palace and even wrote pieces of music himself!

Frederick was also a skilled military leader. He fought in many wars to expand Prussia's borders and protect his people. One of his most famous victories was during the Seven Years' War, where he led his army against much larger forces and won. His bravery and strategy earned him the nickname "Frederick the Great."

Even after his death in 1786, Frederick's ideas and leadership continued to inspire people. He showed that a ruler could be both a strong leader and a lover of the arts. Today, Frederick is remembered for his hard work, clever mind, and the lasting changes he made to his country.