



Values: Philanthropy



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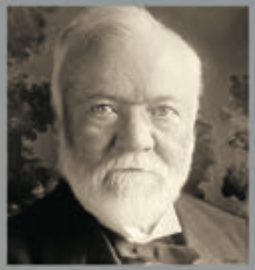
Biographies.com Andrew Carnegie

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Andrew Carnegie

The Father of Modern Philanthropy

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Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) was born in Dunfermline, Scotland, into a poor family. They moved to Pennsylvania, USA, in 1848. His first job, aged 13, was in a factory on \$1.20 a week, but by the 1860s he was a millionaire, mainly from **investing** money in railways. After 1865, he moved into steel and, in 1892, he created the Carnegie Steel Company, the biggest producer of steel in the world. He sold it in 1901 for \$225.64 million, making him the richest man in the world, but he then started giving his **fortune** away. By his death, he had given \$350 million, about 90% of his fortune, to different public projects.


Early life ▼
Business ▼
Charity ▲



Carnegie had a rule: spend the first third of your life educating yourself, the second third making all the money you can, and the last third giving the money away to worthwhile causes. He believed that rich people had a responsibility to give back to society. He created museums and concert halls, put money into universities and scientific **projects** like the Hooker telescope, and set up charities all over the world.



Carnegie's real passion, however, was public libraries. He only went to school for a few years in Scotland, but in Pennsylvania, a local man called Colonel James Anderson **announced** that he was opening his 400-book personal library to working boys. Carnegie was able to go there every Saturday and **borrow** a book. He never forgot the chance he got to educate himself, and promised to do the same when he was rich.

By the time of his death, Carnegie had built over 2,500 public libraries in 47 states of the USA, as well as in the UK, Canada, Ireland and many other countries. He also provided books and equipment to many more. The very first public library he created was in Dunfermline, Scotland, the town of his birth.

1 What is the purpose of the text: *to inform?* *to entertain?* *to persuade?* Read through quickly to check.

2  Listen to and read the text. Write five questions based on the text. Exchange with your partner. Answer the questions. Then, explain the words in bold.

3   If you were very rich like Andrew Carnegie, which charities/organisations would you donate to? Why?

4   Collect information about other people who have donated their fortunes to charities. Present them to the class.