

DID YOU KNOW?

1 Read the text.



Gaudí – the King of architects or the mad builder?

Antoni Gaudí i Cornet was born in Baix Camp, Tarragona, in 1852. When he was a child, he was often ill with arthritis, so he couldn't play with other children. He spent a lot of time looking at animals and plants and thinking about their shapes. Gaudí then studied architecture in Barcelona. He didn't go out with the other students very much. He preferred to study alone in the library. He was particularly interested in books and illustrations from the Middle Ages. Some of his ideas and sketches were very unusual. Some students and teachers thought Gaudí was mad. Others thought he was a genius.



Gaudí's most famous building is the Sagrada Família in Barcelona. He spent 43 years working on this extraordinary cathedral and he even lived there. It is not finished today. At present it has eight very tall towers covered in mosaics made from coloured glass.

Another famous Gaudí project is Parc Güell, also in Barcelona. Here you can see Gaudí's interest in plants and animals. There is a bench shaped like a snake and a mosaic lizard sitting between two staircases. Gaudí used many different materials in his buildings – stone, pottery, tiles, iron, glass, and bricks. He used broken tiles on the roofs because they were cheaper and he could make interesting designs with them.

Gaudí became very famous during his life, and many rich people asked him to design buildings for them. But the Sagrada Família was always the most important project for him, and he worked there until the day he died in 1926.



2 Answer these questions about Gaudí.

- 1 Why didn't Gaudí play with other children? _____
- 2 Did he like studying with other students? _____
- 3 Which Gaudí project has eight very tall towers? _____
- 4 Which project has a bench shaped like a snake? _____
- 5 Which building was Gaudí working on when he died? _____
- 6 How old was Gaudí when he died? _____

3 What do you think about Gaudí? Do you like his buildings? Do you think he was mad or a genius?