

# Evelyn Glennie

**To complete this work you can...**

- **Print off and complete on the sheet**
- **Find the sheet in the printed pack given to some children on Friday 20th**
- **Write your answers in a notebook or in a word document**



Evelyn Glennie is a well-known musician who plays many different percussion instruments. She is the first ever solo fulltime percussionist. She has played all around the world with famous orchestras and musicians. Below you can read from her autobiography, *Good Vibrations*; but first, here is a short outline of her life so far.

Evelyn was born in 1965 and grew up with her two brothers on a farm in northeast Scotland. From an early age, when she started to learn the piano, recorder and clarinet, it was clear that Evelyn was unusually gifted in music.

While still at primary school, Evelyn started to lose her hearing. By the age of 12 she was almost completely deaf. At secondary school, she stopped playing most other instruments in order to put her effort into percussion. Here she began to excel as a talented musician, with support from family and teachers, especially Mr Forbes, her percussion teacher.

In those days, because of her deafness, it was difficult for Evelyn to be allowed to attend the local secondary school. Later on, in 1981, she had an even bigger struggle to get into the Royal Academy of Music in London, where she wanted to continue her studies in music. At first, the Royal Academy was unwilling even to interview her but she was finally accepted. She did better than anyone expected and completed her studies while still exceptionally young – before her 20th birthday.

In 1988 Evelyn won the *Young Musician of the Year* competition and since then her career has taken off. She has become an outstanding professional musician, winning countless prizes and awards, and has performed with many world-class musicians all over the globe. Evelyn appears on television frequently, presenting music programmes such as 'Soundbites'. She has also written and performed music – not only for television, but also for film. She has even developed her own musical instrument – a new range of cymbals.

Some of Evelyn's major achievements:

- gives around 110 concerts a year
- has recorded 18 albums
- has performed in over 40 countries
- has collected over 1800 instruments
- uses up to 60 instruments in a live performance
- was the first classical musician to have her own website

1. Which of these instruments did Evelyn learn as a child?

Tick **one**.

flute

recorder

guitar

violin

1 mark

2. This table shows the dates of some important events in Evelyn's life. Fill in the three gaps.

Date	Event
1965	
1977	Went to secondary school
	Went to the Royal Academy of Music
1984	Completed studies
	Won Young Musician of the Year

2 marks

3. The text says that Evelyn was the first person to do two things.

Give **one** of them: \_\_\_\_\_

1 mark

4. The writer used descriptions such as *unusually gifted* to describe Evelyn.

(a) Find and **copy two other** words or phrases showing that Evelyn had a special gift.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

2 marks

(b) What is the effect of using these descriptions?

Tick **one**.

to give the idea that Evelyn was  
very lucky

to show how talented Evelyn was

to describe Evelyn's difficulties

to reveal Evelyn's opinion

1 mark