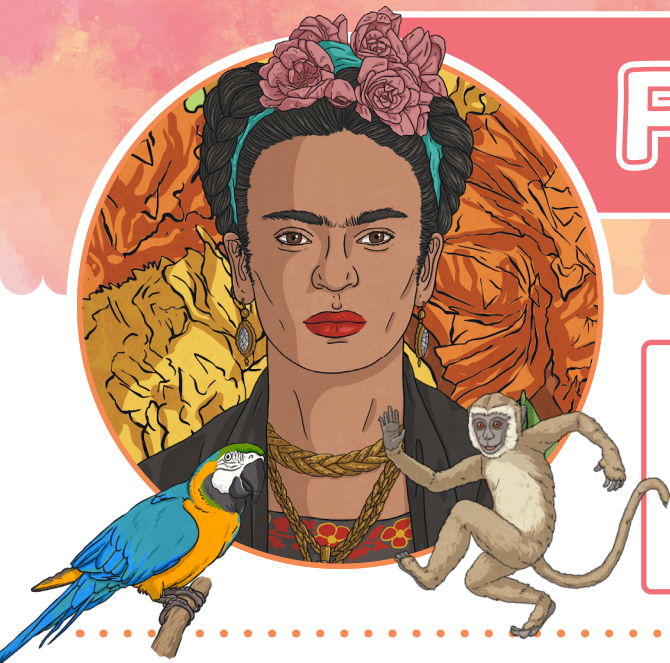


Frida Kahlo



Frida Kahlo was a 20th-century Mexican artist who was known for her many self-portraits.



Childhood

She was born in Mexico in 1907. Her father was a German photographer and her mother was of Spanish and Native American descent.



Kahlo caught **polio** when she was six years old and was ill for nine months. Her right leg and foot were smaller and weaker than her left leg and foot because of the polio.

School Days

Frida Kahlo studied science as a teenager at the National Preparatory School in Mexico City because she wanted to be a doctor when she was older. She almost always wore traditional Tehuana clothes that included a long, ruffled skirt. The skirt covered up her damaged right leg and foot.

Kahlo was involved in a serious bus accident in 1925 when she was 18. She was seriously injured and had to stay in bed for three months. Kahlo painted many self-portraits in bed using a special **easel** and mirror her parents set up for her.

Becoming an Artist

Kahlo met and became friends with the famous artist called Diego Rivera in 1922. She called on Diego Rivera and asked him to look at her work in 1928. He was impressed and the two grew close. They were married in 1929 when Kahlo was 22.

Frida Kahlo painted 143 brightly coloured paintings. She often painted herself with or as animals, plants and buildings. Her paintings often showed events that were happening in her life.



A Famous Artist

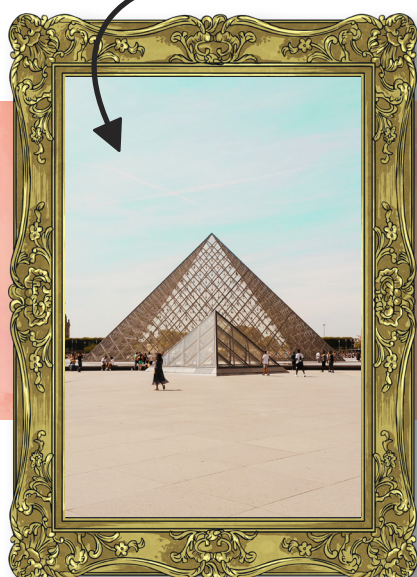
In 1938, Kahlo held her first solo art show in New York and sold 12 paintings. She became the first Mexican artist to sell a painting to the world-famous Louvre Museum in Paris in 1939.

Kahlo was sickly her whole life because of what happened to her as a child. She arrived in an ambulance for her only art show in Mexico in 1953 and then sat in a bed to talk to guests.



Frida Kahlo is remembered by many to this day as a talented woman who didn't let her hardships stop her from becoming a famous artist.

The Louvre Museum



Self-Portrait with Monkeys. Photo by Libby Rosof (@flickr.com) is licensed under CC BY 2.0.

Glossary

easel:	A frame for supporting an artist's canvas.
polio:	A viral disease that can cause paralysis.

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Questions

1. What did Frida Kahlo like to include in her paintings? Tick one.

- ☐ animals and plants
- ☐ stars and planets
- ☐ food and drink
- ☐ characters from books

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- ☐ Frida Kahlo met Diego Rivera.
- ☐ Frida Kahlo began to paint with a special easel and mirror.
- ☐ Frida Kahlo was injured in a bus accident.
- ☐ Frida Kahlo asked Diego Rivera to look at her work.

3. How many paintings did Frida Kahlo paint? Tick one.

- ☐ 55
- ☐ 143
- ☐ 12
- ☐ 22

4. How long did Frida Kahlo have to stay in bed after the bus accident? Tick one.

- ☐ three years
- ☐ nine months
- ☐ three months
- ☐ nine years

5. What did Frida Kahlo's father do for work?

6. Fill in the missing words.

Her paintings often showed _____ that were _____
in her life.

7. What is your favourite thing that you have learnt about Frida Kahlo?

Explain your answer.

Answers

1. What did Frida Kahlo like to include in her paintings?

- ☒ **animals and plants**
- ☐ stars and planets
- ☐ food and drink
- ☐ characters from books

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- 1** Frida Kahlo met Diego Rivera.
- 3** Frida Kahlo began to paint with a special easel and mirror.
- 2** Frida Kahlo was injured in a bus accident.
- 4** Frida Kahlo asked Diego Rivera to look at her work.

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- ☐ three years
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- ☒ **three months**
- ☐ nine years

5. What did Frida Kahlo's father do for work?

He was a photographer.

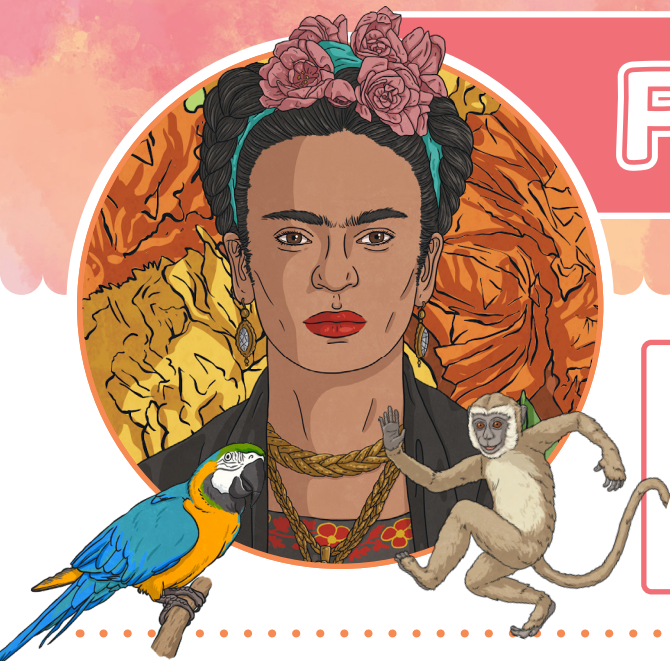
6. Fill in the missing words.

Her paintings often showed **events** that were **happening** in her life.

7. What is your favourite thing you learnt about Frida Kahlo? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I really liked how she used bright colours and animals in her paintings. I think I would like to do that too because it sounds fun. I like to draw animals.

Frida Kahlo



Frida Kahlo was a 20th-century Mexican artist that was known for her brightly coloured self-portraits.

Childhood



She was born in Mexico on 6th of July 1907 and was the third of four daughters. Her father was a German photographer and her mother was of Spanish and Native American descent.

Frida Kahlo became very ill with **polio** when she was six years old. She was ill for nine months. Once the polio was gone, her right leg and foot were smaller and weaker than her left leg and foot.

School Days

At age 15, Kahlo became a pupil at the popular National Preparatory School in Mexico City. Kahlo wanted to be a doctor when she was older so she took many different science classes. In the same year, Kahlo became friends with the famous artist Diego Rivera while he worked at her school.

When Frida Kahlo was 18, she was riding on a public bus that collided with a tram. She was seriously injured and left in a full-body cast for three months. Confined to bed, Kahlo painted many self-portraits using a special **easel** and mirror her parents set up for her.



Becoming an Artist

In 1928, Frida Kahlo reconnected with Diego Rivera and asked him to have a look at her art and tell her what he thought of it. He was impressed and persuaded her to continue to paint. The two grew closer and were married in August 1929 when Kahlo was 22.

Kahlo continued to paint many brightly coloured self-portraits with animals, such as monkeys and parrots. She also painted herself with flowers, buildings and other structures. What she painted depended on the events in her life. Once, she even painted herself as a deer.



A Famous Artist

In 1938, Frida Kahlo held her first solo **exhibition** in New York and sold 12 paintings. In 1939, she became the first Mexican artist to sell a piece of art to the world-famous Louvre Museum.

Always sickly, Kahlo had never fully recovered from her childhood illness and her accident. She often had to wear medical supports for her back and leg. She arrived in an ambulance for her only exhibition in Mexico in 1953. Once there, she sat in a bed while she spoke with guests.

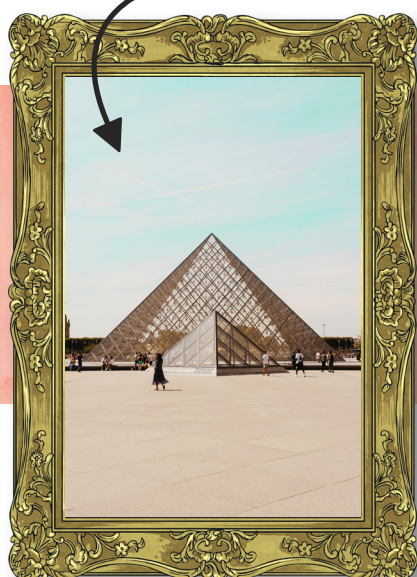
Even today, Kahlo is remembered by many as a determined woman who overcame her hardships to become a successful artist.



Did You Know...?

Frida Kahlo almost always wore traditional Tehuana clothes. She wore a flower headdress, gold jewellery, a loose top and a long, ruffled skirt.

The Louvre Museum



Glossary

easel:	A frame for supporting an artist's canvas.
exhibition:	A public display of works of art.
polio:	A viral disease that can cause paralysis.

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Questions

1. How many sisters did Frida Kahlo have? Tick one.

- ☐ 6
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3

2. Draw **four** lines and match Frida Kahlo's age to the event.

22

6

18

15

Frida Kahlo was ill with polio.

Frida Kahlo was seriously injured in an accident.

Frida Kahlo married Diego Rivera.

Frida Kahlo attended the National Preparatory School.

3. What did Frida Kahlo study in school? Tick one.

- ☐ art
- ☐ history
- ☐ politics
- ☐ science

4. What did Frida Kahlo want to be when she grew up? Tick one.

- ☐ scientist
- ☐ painter
- ☐ doctor
- ☐ sculptor

5. What was the name of the school Frida Kahlo attended?

6. Fill in the missing words.

Confined to bed, Kahlo painted many _____ using a special
_____ and mirror her parents set up for her.

7. Why do you think Frida Kahlo asked Diego Rivera to look at her paintings first?

Explain your answer.

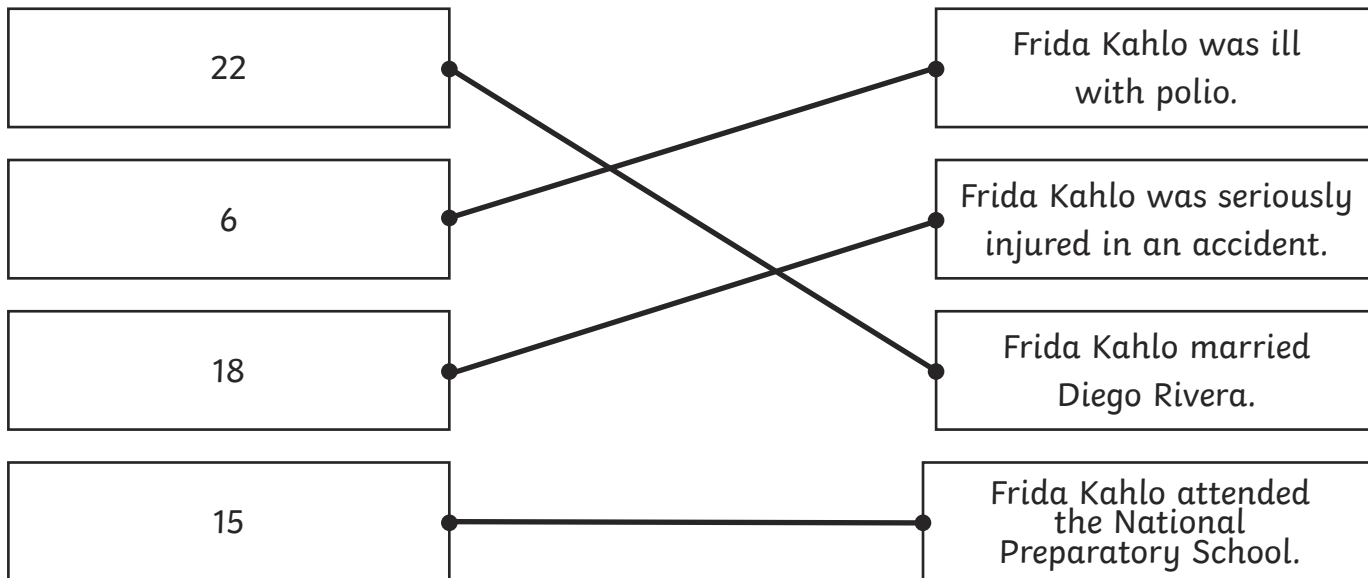
8. Frida Kahlo sometimes painted herself as an animal. If you were to paint yourself as an animal, what animal would you be? Explain your answer.

Answers

1. How many sisters did Frida Kahlo have? Tick one.

- ☐ 6
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 2
- ☒ 3

2. Draw **four** lines and match Frida Kahlo's age to the event.



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- ☐ art
- ☐ history
- ☐ politics
- ☒ **science**

4. What did Frida Kahlo want to be when she grew up? Tick one.

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- ☒ **doctor**
- ☐ sculptor

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Frída Kahlo attended the the National Preparatory School.

6. Fill in the missing words.

Confined to bed, Kahlo painted many **self-portraits** using a special **easel** and mirror her parents set up for her.

7. Why do you think Frida Kahlo asked Diego Rivera to look at her paintings first?

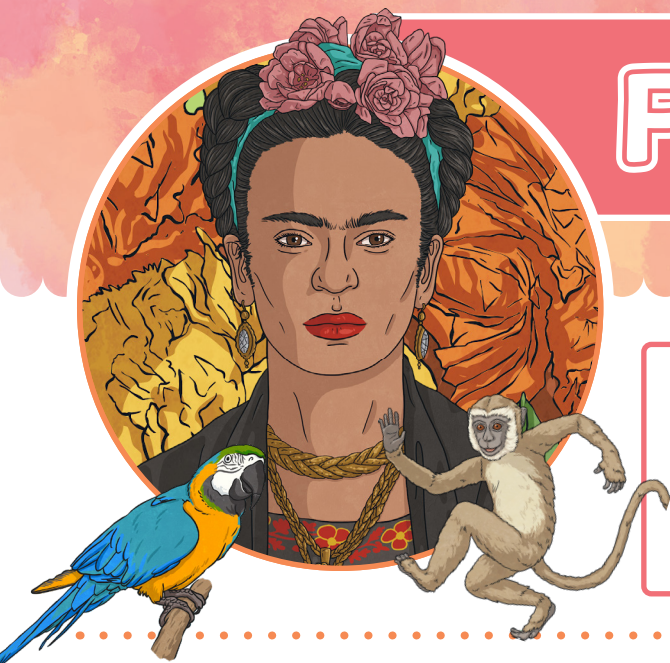
Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Frida Kahlo asked him because he might have been the only artist she knew. She also was familiar with his art from when he worked at the school.

8. Frida Kahlo sometimes painted herself as an animal. If you were to paint yourself as an animal, what animal would you be? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think I would paint myself as a tiger. They are very strong and like to climb trees like me. They also love to swim and play in the water like me.

Frida Kahlo



Frida Kahlo was a 20th-century Mexican artist that was known for her brightly coloured self-portraits using a variety of themes, animals and plants.

Childhood



Born in Coyoacán in Mexico on 6th of July 1907, Frida Kahlo was the third of four daughters. Her father was a German photographer and her mother was of Spanish and Native American descent.

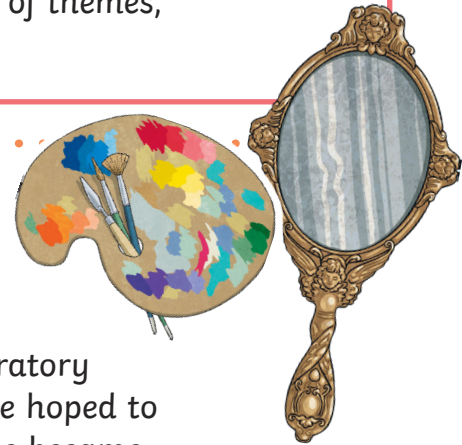
When she was just six years old, Kahlo was struck down with **polio** and it lasted for nine months. As a result, her right leg and foot were smaller and weaker than her left leg and foot.

School Days

When she was 15, Frida Kahlo was accepted to attend the highly respected National Preparatory School in Mexico City. She hoped to become a doctor when she became an adult so Kahlo studied biology, zoology and anatomy.

In 1922, Kahlo became friends with the famous artist Diego Rivera, who had come to paint a **mural** in the school's hall.

When Frida Kahlo was 18, she was a passenger on a public bus that collided with a tram. This left her with many serious injuries and broken bones. Unable to leave her bed for three months, Kahlo painted many self-portraits using a special **easel** and a mirror her parents set up for her.



Adult Life

In 1928, Frida Kahlo reconnected with Diego Rivera and asked him to give her his opinion on her art. He told her that she was very gifted and that she should continue to paint. The two soon fell in love and were married in August 1929 when Kahlo was 22.

At first, the newly-weds travelled all over America as Diego received many commissions for work. Kahlo continued to improve as a painter, painting many self-portraits using bright colours with flowers and animals, such as monkeys and parrots. She also painted herself with buildings and other structures, depending on the theme of her painting and events in her life. Once, she even painted herself as a deer.



Becoming Famous

Frida Kahlo became known for her traditional Tehuana dress: a flower headdress, gold jewellery, a loose top and a long, ruffled skirt. In New York, Kahlo held her first solo **exhibition** in 1938 and sold 12 paintings. In 1939, she became the first Mexican artist to sell a piece of art to the world-renowned Louvre Museum in Paris.

Sadly, Kahlo's health was consistently weak as a result of her childhood illness and her accident. In Mexico in 1953, she arrived at her only solo exhibition in an ambulance and had to sit in a bed while she spoke with guests.



Frida Kahlo once said, "To paint is the most terrific thing that there is, but to do it well is very difficult. It is necessary... to have very strict self-discipline and above all to have love, to feel a great love for painting."

Even today, Frida Kahlo is respected as a unique artist as well as a strong woman undeterred by her injuries and illness.

The Louvre Museum



Glossary

commission:	Paid requests for specific pieces of art.
exhibition:	A public display of works of art.
mural:	A painting created on a wall.
polio:	A viral disease that can cause paralysis.

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Questions

1. Draw **four** lines and match each city to its event in Frida Kahlo's life.

New York

Mexico City

Paris

Coyoacán

Frida Kahlo was born here.

Frida Kahlo held her first exhibition here.

Frida Kahlo went to school here.

Frida Kahlo sold a painting to the Louvre Museum.

2. How long was Frida Kahlo ill with polio? Tick one.

- ☐ three years
☐ nine months
☐ three months
☐ nine years

3. Look at the section **Adult Life**.

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'talented'.

4. Which museum bought one of Frida Kahlo's paintings in 1939?

5. Fill in the missing words.

Frida Kahlo became known for her _____ Tehuana dress: a flower headdress, gold _____, a loose top and a long, ruffled skirt.

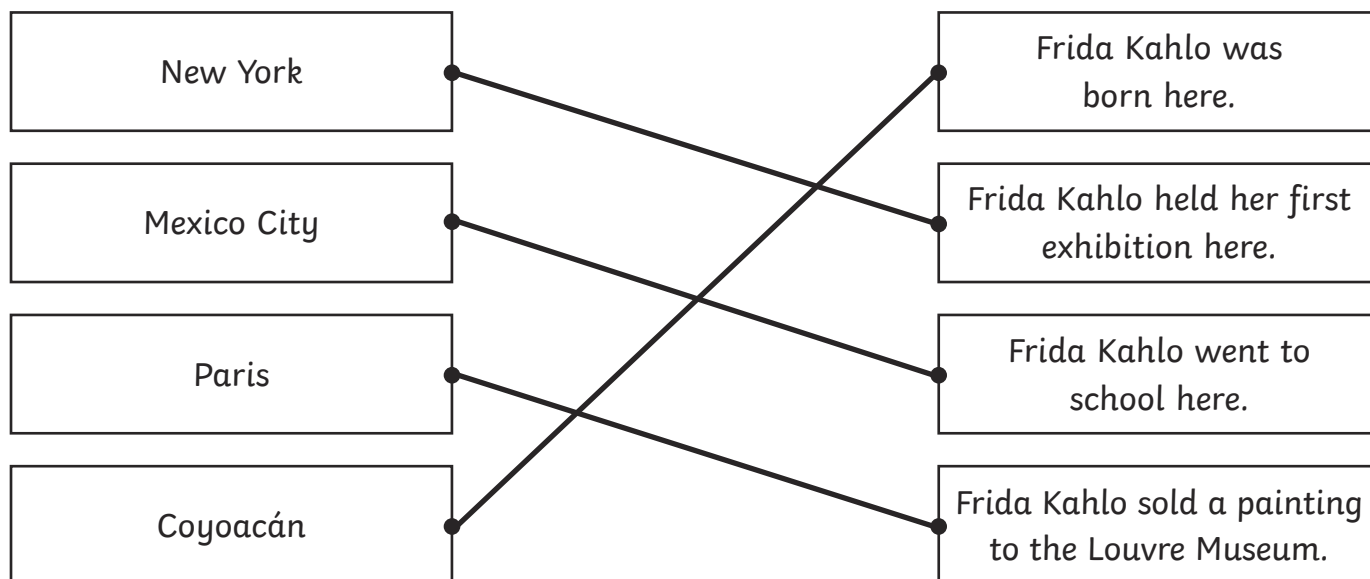
6. Why do you think Frida Kahlo liked to paint self-portraits? Explain your answer.

7. Do you feel Frida Kahlo was proud of her paintings? Explain your answer.

8. What kind of person do you think Frida Kahlo was? Explain your answer.

Answers

1. Draw **four** lines and match each city to its event in Frida Kahlo's life.



2. How long was Frida Kahlo ill with polio? Tick one.

- ☐ three years
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3. Look at the section **Adult Life**.

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'talented'.

gifted

4. Which museum bought one of Frida Kahlo's paintings in 1939?

The Louvre bought one of Frida Kahlo's paintings in 1939.

5. Fill in the missing words.

Frida Kahlo became known for her **traditional** Tehuana dress: a flower headdress, gold **jewellery**, a loose top and a long, ruffled skirt.

6. Why do you think Frida Kahlo liked to paint self-portraits? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Frida Kahlo liked to paint self-portraits because she knew her face best and I think she liked to paint herself with bright colours and animals and plants to make herself happy.

7. Do you feel Frida Kahlo was proud of her paintings? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Frida Kahlo was proud because she held many exhibitions and used her own face in her paintings a lot.

8. What kind of person do you think Frida Kahlo was? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Frida Kahlo was a person who didn't give up easily because she didn't let her injuries or illness stop her from travelling or painting. I think she enjoyed animals and nature and loved to use them in her art to brighten it.