

- 1 Charles Dickens was born on 7th February 1812 in Portsmouth.
- 2 His full name was Charles John Huffham Dickens, but he rarely used his middle names.
- 3 At the age of 12 his father was sent to prison for debt. To help support his family he was sent to work in a factory.
- 4 As a young man, Dickens became a newspaper reporter and travelled all over England.
- 5 Many people he met on his travels were reflected in his stories' characters.
- 6 His first novel, The Pickwick Papers was published in 1836 and became an instant hit.
- 7 In 1836 Charles Dickens married Catherine Hogarth.
- 8 He had 10 children and gave them nicknames like "Skittles" and "Plorn."
- 9 Dickens coined some words and phrases that are still well-known such as 'giving someone the creeps', 'butter-fingers' and 'Bah! Humbug!'
- 10 Charles Dickens died on 9th June 1870.

