

Name _____

Date _____

Who was the most famous escape artist?

Harry Houdini was born in Budapest, Hungary. His real name was Erik Weisz. His name was later changed to Erich Weiss to facilitate emigration to the United States.

One day, his father took him to see the show of a traveling magician. The young Erik Weiss was struck by the art of acting. Erik Weiss and his friends formed a small circus, where he was a contortionist and trapeze artist.

He took his stage name from Robert Houdin, considered the "Father of Modern Magic." He added an 'i' at the end of the name and became Houdini.

He was noted for his impossible escape acts, which he owed to his great physical endurance. He had great skills for freeing himself from bondage with ropes and padlocked chains. He received the nickname "King of Handcuffs".

There have been several movies based on his life, including one filmed by Disney entitled "Young Harry Houdini."

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS.

1. Where was Harry Houdini born?

- a. Hungary
- b. the United States
- c. Germany
- d. None of the above



March 1874 – October 1926

2. Houdini and his friends formed _____ .

- a. a small aquarium
- b. a small school
- c. a small circus
- d. a small zoo

3. He took his stage name from _____ .

- a. Doug Henning
- b. Mac King
- c. Saddam Hussein
- d. Robert Houdin

4. What nickname did they give Houdini?

- a. The Father of Modern Magic
- b. The King of Handcuffs
- c. The King of Illusion
- d. The Prince of Trunks

