

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## High School Reading Comprehension

Read the text below and answer the questions!

### The Life and Legacy of Nikola Tesla

Nikola Tesla, one of history's most brilliant inventors, was born in 1856 in Smiljan, a small village in Croatia. Tesla's contributions to science and technology laid the foundation for much of the modern world. Though best known for his work with alternating current (AC) electricity, Tesla's inventive mind extended far beyond this single achievement.

After studying engineering and physics, Tesla moved to the United States in 1884. There, he briefly worked for Thomas Edison before striking out on his own. Tesla and Edison became rivals due to their opposing electrical systems: Tesla championed AC, while Edison promoted direct current (DC). Tesla's AC system proved to be more efficient for transmitting electricity over long distances and eventually became the standard.

Despite his groundbreaking work, Tesla struggled financially for much of his life. His eccentric behavior and unorthodox ideas, such as plans for wireless energy transmission, made it difficult for him to secure consistent funding. Many of his innovations were overshadowed by the work of his contemporaries.

In recent decades, Tesla has gained recognition as a pioneer of modern technology. His inventions, including the Tesla coil, have had a lasting impact on science, and his vision of renewable and wireless energy is more relevant than ever. Today, he is celebrated as a symbol of innovation and genius.

#### QUESTIONS

1. Where was Nikola Tesla born?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Answer: Smiljan, in what is now Croatia)

2. Who did Tesla briefly work for after moving to the United States?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Answer: Thomas Edison)

3. What type of electrical system did Tesla support?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Answer: Thomas Edison)

4. What challenges did Tesla face later in his life?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Answer: Financial struggles and difficulty securing funding)

5. Name one of Tesla's unorthodox ideas!

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Answer: Wireless energy transmission)