

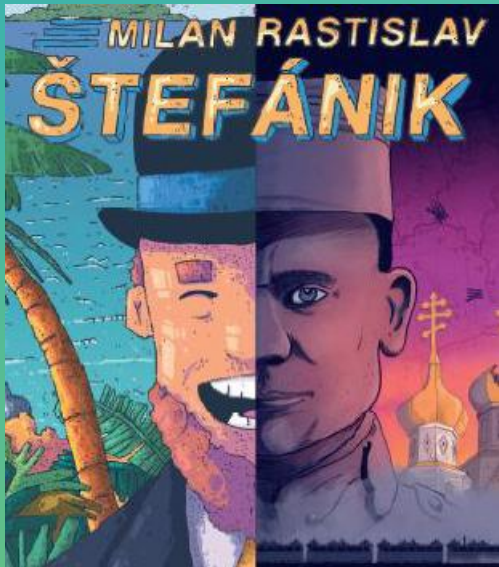
MILAN RASTISLAV
ŠTEFÁNIK:
ADVENTURER, SCIENTIST
AND HERO

A PRESENTATION TO DISCOVER

A MAN WHO LEFT HIS MARK ON HISTORY



WHO IS MILAN RASTISLAV ŠTEFÁNIK?



Born on the 21st of July 1880 in Slovakia (at the time, part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire).

A man of many talents: astronomer, pilot, general, diplomat and national hero.

One of the founding fathers of Czechoslovakia, alongside Tomáš Masaryk and Edvard Beneš.

Why is he famous? He travelled the world, studied the stars and helped create a country!

A DEDICATED SCIENTIST



Passionate about astronomy, Štefánik studied the stars in Paris and travelled to observe solar eclipses.

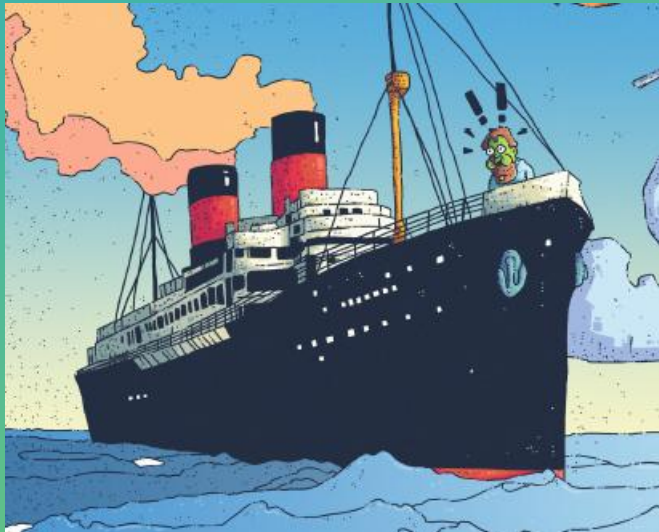
His expeditions took him to Brazil, Tahiti, Australia, and even to Mont Blanc!

Did you know that... in 1905, while observing a solar eclipse in Spain, he had had to improvise with makeshift equipment, and yet nevertheless succeeded?

Question:

Why do you think it was so important to observe the stars at that time?

A FEARLESS ADVENTURER



During the First World War, he joined the French army and became a pilot (at a time when flying was very dangerous).

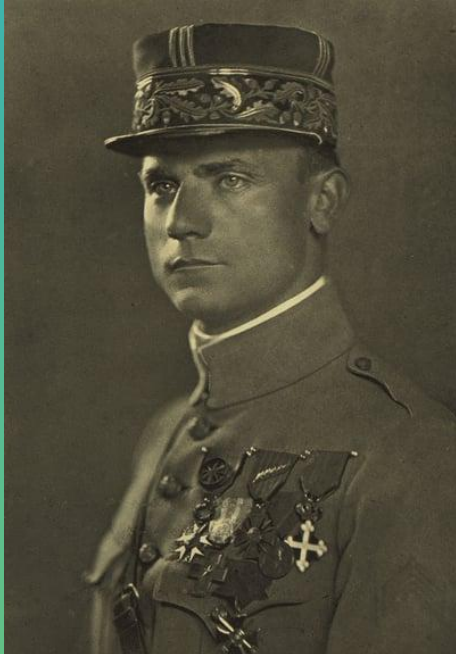
A pioneer: Milan Rastislav Štefánik played a key role in the creation of the French army's meteorological service.

A man of action: He risked his life to defend his ideals.

Question:

Do you know which French general helped Štefánik set up the Czechoslovak Legions?

A HERO OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR



Key role: He helped create the Czechoslovak Legion in France, an army of Czech and Slovak volunteers who wanted to free their country from the Austro-Hungarian Empire...

Minister of War: He contributed to the birth of Czechoslovakia in 1918 alongside Masaryk and Beneš; thanks to them, Czechoslovakia was recognised as an independent country.

A famous quote:

‘What Masaryk thinks, Beneš says, and Štefánik does.’

Question:

In which government did Štefánik hold the position of Minister of War?

A TRAGIC END



Premature death: On the 4th of May 1919, while returning to Czechoslovakia after the war, his plane crashed near Bratislava. He was only 38 years old, but he was already a legend.

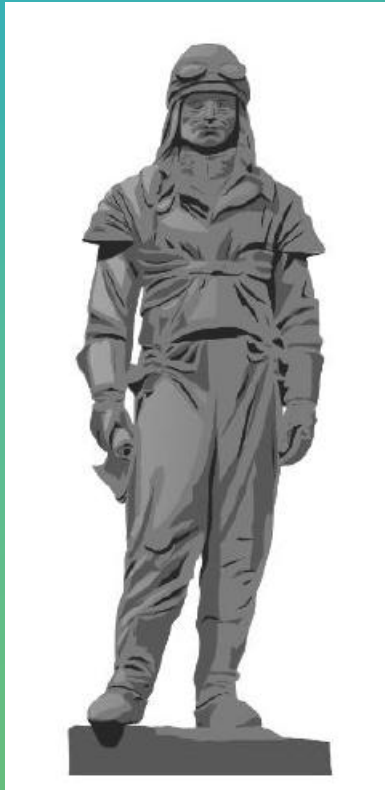
Legacy: Today, he is a national symbol in Slovakia.

Tributes: Monuments, stamps and even a 2-euro coin bear his image.

Debate:

*Should scientists get involved in politics, in your opinion?
Why?*

WHY REMEMBER HIM?



A model of commitment: Štefánik shows us that it is possible to be a scientist and an adventurer and be committed to one's country at one and the same time.

A source of inspiration: His story reminds us of the importance of courage, curiosity and determination.

His message: Whatever our age, we can all leave our mark on history.

Question:

Which characteristic of Štefánik inspires you the most?



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Enrichit les vies, ouvre les esprits.



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