

# Antoni Gaudi

Antoni Gaudi is one of the world's best-known architects. He is regarded by some as a great master of modernism and his major works can be found in Barcelona.

Gaudi was born in a small village in Tarragona in 1852. He is said to have been a good student and it is reported that he loved to learn from nature. When Gaudi discovered that he wanted to be an architect, he moved to Barcelona to attend university.



Soon, Gaudi received a very special assignment. A group of people employed him to build the Sagrada Familia: a church in Barcelona. Gaudi transformed it into a symbol of modernist architecture. Today, Sagrada Familia is still under construction, just as it has been for 100 years. It is estimated that it will finally be finished by 2026. Gaudi is reported to have said that natural things need their time to grow.

Gaudi created many other buildings. In Barcelona, he built Casa Batlló and Casa Milà. Outside Catalonia, we can find El Capricho in Comillas, the Episcopal Palace in Astorga and Casa Botines in León. He also remodelled the Cathedral of Palma in Mallorca.

In 1878, Gaudi met Eusebi Güell – a young entrepreneur from one of the richest families in the country. They were friends for the rest of their lives. With him, Gaudi created some of his most inspired works, such as Güell Palace, Güell Colony and Güell Park.

At Güell Park, Gaudi developed some of his most characteristic techniques: 'trencadís', which is a type of mosaic which is made out of broken tiles. Gaudi said that he wanted to imitate the rounded shapes of nature and that square shapes did not allow him to do that. The park is where he and Count Güell settled. Count Güell died in 1916 and Gaudi continued to live there until his untimely death in 1926.



# Questions

1. What was Antoni Gaudi's job?

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2. Where can Gaudi's major works be found? Tick **one**.

- Tarragona
- Barcelona
- Mallorca
- Catalonia

3. Why did Gaudi move to Barcelona?

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4. Why do you think Gaudi said 'Natural things need their time to grow'?

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5. When is the Sagrada Familia expected to be finished?

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6. When did Gaudi die? Tick **one**.

- 1916
- 1926
- 1878
- 2026

7. Why do you think Gaudi and Count Güell chose to live in Güell Park?

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8. Gaudi was inspired by nature. Do you agree with this statement? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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# Answers

1. What was Antoni Gaudi's job?

**He was an architect.**

2. Where can Gaudi's major works be found? Tick **one**.

- Tarragona
- Barcelona**
- Mallorca
- Catalonia

3. Why did Gaudi move to Barcelona?

**He moved to Barcelona to attend university.**

4. Why do you think Gaudi said 'Natural things need their time to grow'?

**I think Gaudi said this because he knew the Sagrada Familia would take a long time to be completed, and wanted to encourage people to be patient so it could be built to the standard he wanted.**

5. When is the Sagrada Familia expected to be finished?

**2026**

6. When did Gaudi die? Tick **one**.

- 1916
- 1926**
- 1878
- 2026

7. Why do you think Gaudi and Count Güell chose to live in Güell Park?

**Pupil's own response, such as: I believe they chose to live in Güell Park as it was the place he developed 'trencadis' which was one of his most characteristic techniques and they could be surrounded by all of the work Gaudi did.**

8. Gaudi was inspired by nature. Do you agree with this statement? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**I agree with this statement because in the text it says that Gaudi loved to learn from nature, it also says that he said 'natural things need their time to grow', and that 'he wanted to imitate the rounded shapes of nature.'**

# Antoni Gaudi

Antoni Gaudi is one of the world's best-known architects. He is regarded by some as a great master of modernism. Millions of tourists visit his major works in Barcelona each year, including Güell Park, Sagrada Familia and Casa Milà.

Gaudi was born in a small village in Tarragona in 1852. He is said to have been a good student and it is reported that he loved to learn from the textures and shapes of nature. When Gaudi discovered his vocation for architecture, he moved to Barcelona to attend university. On his graduation day, a professor is said to have commented, "I don't know if we have in front of us a genius or a madman."



Soon after starting his professional career, Gaudi received an assignment that would change his life. A group of people had decided to build a church but the project wasn't working as they intended. They employed Gaudi, who was a religious and talented young man, to transform the project. He constructed the Sagrada Familia.

Today, Sagrada Familia is still under construction, just as it has been since 1882. It is estimated that it will finally be finished by 2026. Gaudi is reported to have said that natural things need their time to grow. Despite his death in 1926, construction still continues.

Gaudi created many other buildings. As he never travelled outside of Spain, most of his work can be found in Barcelona, such as Casa Batlló and Casa Milà which are on one of the main avenues of the city. The unconventional nature of these



buildings was controversial at the time that they were built. Outside Catalonia, we can find El Capricho in Comillas, the Episcopal Palace in Astorga and Casa Botines in León. He also remodelled the Cathedral of Palma in Mallorca.





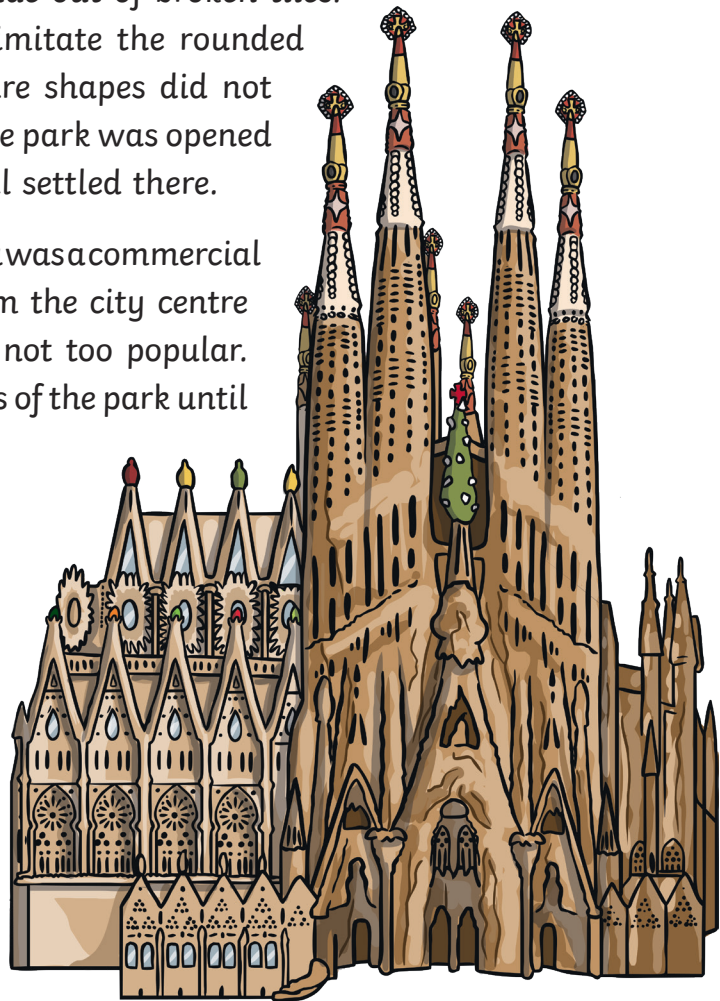
Gaudi never married. It is reported that he was not interested in fame or fortune and that he chose to always wear the same set of clothes. Gaudi took good care of his health. He was attentive to his co-workers and, reportedly, his motto was 'festina lente': a Latin phrase that means 'in order to go fast, you must go slowly'.

In 1878, Gaudi met Eusebi Güell – a young entrepreneur from one of the richest families in the country. They were friends for the rest of their lives. Thanks to Güell's personal fortune and artistic sense, Gaudi created some of his most inspired works, such as Güell Palace, Güell Colony and Güell Park.

Inspired by Great Britain, Güell wanted to create a garden city on the outskirts of Barcelona and he gave total freedom to Gaudi to create it. At Güell Park, Gaudi developed some of his most characteristic techniques: 'trencadís', which is a type of mosaic which is made out of broken tiles.

Gaudi said that he wanted to imitate the rounded shapes of nature and that square shapes did not allow him to do that. In 1904, the park was opened and both Gaudi and Count Güell settled there.

Unfortunately, the residential area was a commercial failure: the park was too far from the city centre and, in those times, Gaudi was not too popular. The two were the only inhabitants of the park until their deaths.



# Questions

1. According to the text, what do some people consider Gaudi a master of?

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2. Where was Gaudi born? Tick **one**.

- Tarragona  
 Barcelona  
 Mallorca  
 Catalonia

3. Tick the boxes to say whether the statements below are **true** or **false**.

Statement	True	False
Gaudi went to university in Barcelona.		
The Sagrada Familia was completed in 2019.		
He was inspired by nature.		
Gaudi died in 1882.		

4. As an entrepreneur, what impact did Güell have on Gaudi's art?

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5. How was 'trencadis' different to standard mosaic?

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6. **Gaudi liked to work quickly and was impatient.**

Do you agree with this statement? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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7. **“I don’t know if we have in front of us a genius or a madman.”**

Why do you think Gaudi’s University professor said this about him?

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8. In the last paragraph, which word tells you that Gaudi and Güell lived in the Güell Park?

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9. Would you like to have worked for Gaudi? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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# Answers

1. According to the text, what do some people consider Gaudi a master of?

**People consider him a master of modernism.**

2. Where was Gaudi born? Tick **one**.

- Tarragona**  
 Barcelona  
 Mallorca  
 Catalonia

3. Tick the boxes to say whether the statements below are **true** or **false**.

Statement	True	False
Gaudi went to university in Barcelona.	✓	
The Sagrada Familia was completed in 2019.		✓
He was inspired by nature.	✓	
Gaudi died in 1882.		✓

4. As an entrepreneur, what impact did Güell have on Gaudi's art?

**The text describes Güell as an entrepreneur and states that he was wealthy. He also invested money in Gaudi's art – trusting him to design Güell Palace, Güell Colony and Güell Park. This may have given Gaudi the confidence and freedom to create his most inspired works, including his most characteristic technique - 'trencadis.'**

5. How was 'trencadis' different to standard mosaic?

**Trencadis is different to standard mosaic because the tiles are broken so they are not square.**

6. **Gaudi liked to work quickly and was impatient.**

Do you agree with this statement? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Pupil's own response that refers to the text, such as: No I do not agree with this statement as the Sagrada Familia has taken over 100 years to be built. The text also says he apparently said 'natural things need their time to grow' and also 'festina lente' which means 'in order to go fast, you must go slowly.' These both suggest that Gaudi would rather take his time and have his work done properly.**

7. **"I don't know if we have in front of us a genius or a madman."**

Why do you think Gaudi's University professor said this about him?

**Pupil's own response, such as: I think his university professor said this because Gaudi's work was very unusual and different for the time. His work is later described as 'unconventional' and 'controversial' which also suggests that people either hated his work or loved it.**

8. In the last paragraph, which word tells you that Gaudi and Güell lived in the Güell Park?

**inhabitants**

9. Would you like to have worked for Gaudi? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Pupil's own response that refers to the text.**

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Gaudi was born in a small village in Tarragona in 1852. He is said to have been a good student and it is reported that he loved to learn from the infinite wealth of textures and shapes that could be found in nature. When Gaudi discovered his vocation for architecture, he moved to Barcelona to attend university. On his graduation day, a professor is said to have commented, "I don't know if we have in front of us a genius or a madman."

Soon after beginning his professional career, Gaudi received an assignment that would change his life. A group of people had decided to build a church but the project wasn't working as they intended. They employed Gaudi, who was a religious and talented young man, to transform the project. He constructed the Sagrada Familia.

Today, Sagrada Familia is still under construction, just as it has been since 1882. It is estimated that it will finally be finished by 2026. Gaudi is reported to have said that natural things need their time to grow. Despite his death in 1926, construction still continues.

Gaudi created many other buildings. As he never travelled outside of Spain, most of his work can be found in Barcelona, such as Casa Batlló and Casa Milà which



are on one of the main avenues of the city. The unconventional nature of these buildings was controversial at the time that they were built. Outside Catalonia, we can find El Capricho in Comillas, the Episcopal Palace in Astorga and Casa Botines in León. He also remodelled the Cathedral of Palma in Mallorca.



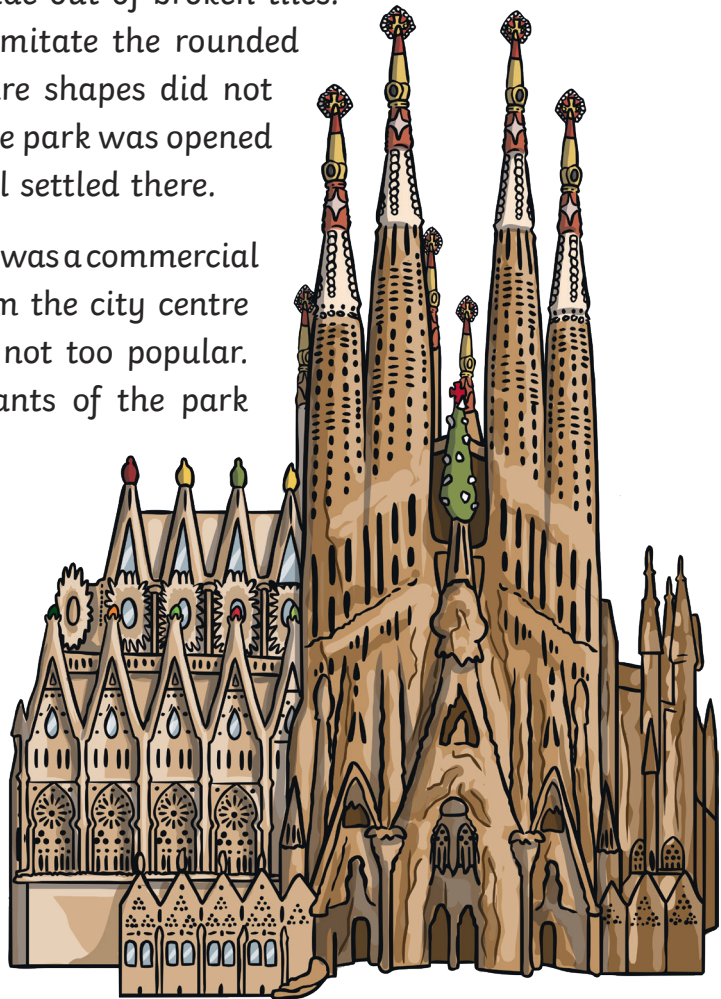
Gaudi never married. It is reported that he was not interested in fame or fortune and that he chose to always wear the same set of clothes. Gaudi took good care of his health. He was attentive to his co-workers and, reportedly, his motto was 'festina lente': a Latin phrase that means 'in order to go fast, you must go slowly'.

In 1878, Gaudi met Eusebi Güell – a young entrepreneur from one of the richest families in the country. They were friends for the rest of their lives. Thanks to Güell's personal fortune and artistic sense, Gaudi created some of his most inspired works, such as Güell Palace, Güell Colony and Güell Park.

Inspired by Great Britain, Güell wanted to create a garden city on the outskirts of Barcelona and he gave total freedom to Gaudi to create it. At Güell Park, Gaudi developed some of his most characteristic techniques: 'trencadís', which is a type of mosaic which is made out of broken tiles.

Gaudi said that he wanted to imitate the rounded shapes of nature and that square shapes did not allow him to do that. In 1904, the park was opened and both Gaudi and Count Güell settled there.

Unfortunately, the residential area was a commercial failure: the park was too far from the city centre and, in those times, Gaudi was not too popular. The two were the only inhabitants of the park until their deaths.





# Questions

1. In what year was Gaudi born?

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2. Tick the boxes to say whether the statements below are **true** or **false**.

Statement	True	False
He is considered a master of abstractism.		
Millions of tourists visit his major works each year.		
He attended university in Catalonia.		
He was born in Barcelona.		

3. What is the name of the famous church that has been under construction for over 100 years?

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4. What reason does the text give to suggest why Gaudi's work can mostly be found in Barcelona?

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5. Did people at the time like Gaudi's work? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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6. What impact do you think Güell might have had on Gaudi's art?

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7. Where can you find the Episcopal Palace? Tick **one**.

- Barcelona
- Comillas
- Astorga
- Mallorca

8. Do you think Gaudi was patient or impatient? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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9. Would you like to have worked for Gaudi? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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10. **“I don’t know if we have in front of us a genius or a madman.”**

Do you think Gaudi’s University professor liked his work?

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# Answers

1. In what year was Gaudi born?

**1852**

2. Tick the boxes to say whether the statements below are **true** or **false**.

Statement	True	False
He is considered a master of abstractism.		✓
Millions of tourists visit his major works each year.	✓	
He attended university in Catalonia.		✓
He was born in Barcelona.		✓

3. What is the name of the famous church that has been under construction for over 100 years?

**The Sagrada Familia**

4. What reason does the text give to suggest why Gaudi's work can mostly be found in Barcelona?

**He never travelled outside of Spain.**

5. Did people at the time like Gaudi's work? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Pupil's own response, that refers to the text such as: Many people did not like Gaudi's work at the time, as the text describes his work as 'unconventional' and 'controversial' which suggests that it was not liked. Or: Many people liked Gaudi's work at the time because he was hired to create lots of different buildings in Barcelona and Spain and had lots of work.**

6. What impact do you think Güell might have had on Gaudi's art?

**I think that Güell would have had a huge impact on Gaudi's art, as he invested money in Gaudi's – trusting him to design Güell Palace, Güell Colony and Güell Park. This could have given Gaudi the confidence and freedom to create his most inspired works, including his most characteristic technique - 'trencadis.'**

7. Where can you find the Episcopal Palace? Tick **one**.

- Barcelona
- Comillas
- Astorga**
- Mallorca

8. Do you think Gaudi was patient or impatient? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Pupil's own response that refers to the text, such as: I believe Gaudi was a patient man as the Sagrada Familia has taken over 100 years to be built. The text also says he apparently said 'natural things need their time to grow' and also 'festina lente' which means 'in order to go fast, you must go slowly.' These both suggest that Gaudi would rather take his time and have his work done properly.**

9. Would you like to have worked for Gaudi? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Pupil's own response that refers to the text.**

10. **"I don't know if we have in front of us a genius or a madman."**

Do you think Gaudi's University professor liked his work?

**Pupil's own response, such as: I think his university professor wasn't sure if he liked Gaudi's work or not because as we know, Gaudi's work was very unusual and different for the time. If the professor liked his work, he would have said he was a genius, and if he did not, he would have said he is a madman, therefore, his professor saying this suggests he is unsure how he feels about Gaudi's work.**