

Beatrix Potter

Beatrix Potter was born in South Kensington, London on the 26th of July 1866. Her parents were wealthy and did not need to work. They spent their time on art and photography.



Beatrix Potter

Beatrix was educated at home by a governess and did not spend much time with other children. Her father took her on visits to the museums near their home.



Beatrix Potter

Beatrix and her brother Bertram kept animals as pets when they were children. They had frogs, salamanders and even a bat!



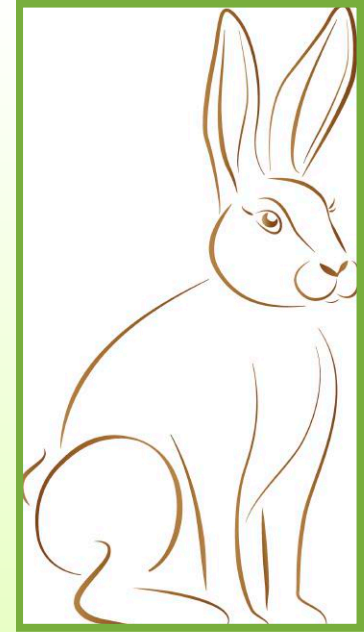
Beatrix Potter

As a child, Beatrix went on long family holidays to Perthshire in Scotland where she and Bertram spent lots of time observing and sketching wildlife.



Beatrix Potter

Beatrix Potter's first book, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, was published in 1901. She published it herself after it had been rejected by six publishers.



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Potter became engaged to her publisher, Norman Warne in 1905. Sadly, Warne died unexpectedly less than a month after proposing.



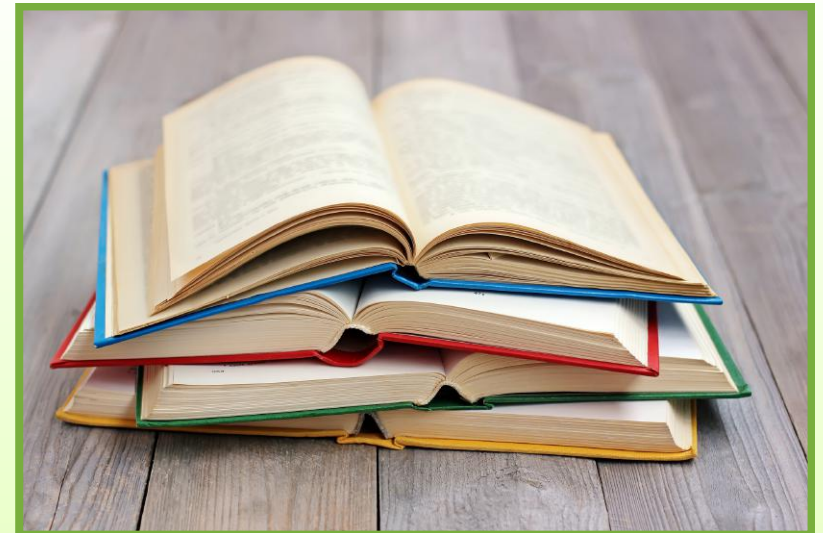
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Potter married William Heelis, a solicitor who had helped her to buy property in Cumbria, in 1913. At first, her parents opposed the marriage as unsuitable.



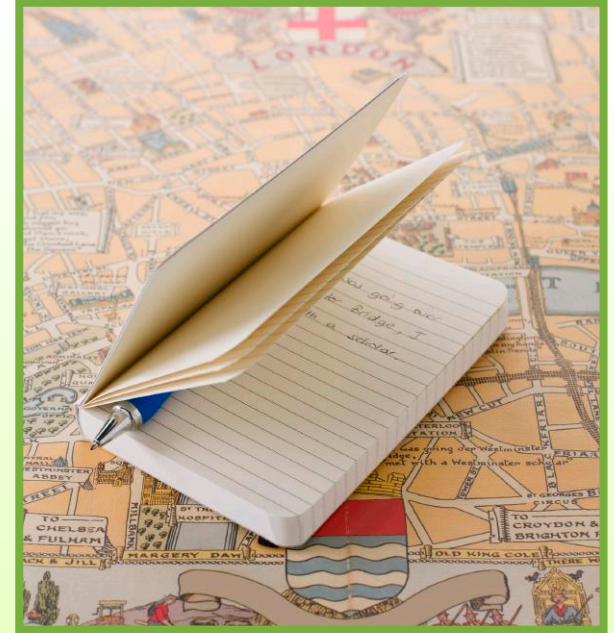
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Potter published 23 "Tales" books in her lifetime, including the Tale of Tom Kitten, The Tale of Jemima Puddleduck and the Tale of the Flopsy Bunnies.



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Beatrix Potter kept a diary, in a secret code, from about the age of 14 until she was 30. The code was cracked over 20 years after her death and her journal was published in 1966.



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Potter studied fungi at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Kew, where she drew hundreds of detailed botanical drawings.



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As well as writing the books, Beatrix Potter designed merchandise including a Peter Rabbit doll and a board game. She insisted that these items were of very high quality.



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Beatrix Potter's first name was Helen, after her mother, but she was known by her middle name.



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The Tale of Peter Rabbit started life as a letter to the son of Potter's former governess, Annie Moore. Eight years after the letter was sent, Potter turned it into the book that we know today.



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Potter won awards for sheep farming and was the first woman elected President of the Herdwick's Sheepbreeder's Association.



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Potter's books have been translated into 35 different languages and have sold over 100 million copies worldwide.



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Potter was the first person to record the rare fungi, *Tremella simplex*, which she drew in 1896 while on holiday in Dunkeld, Scotland.



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When the publishers Frederick Warne & Co republished *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* in 1902 she redrew her original black and white drawings in colour.



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In 2015 an unpublished manuscript called *The Tale of Kitty-in-Boots* was found in the Victoria and Albert Museum. It was published in 2016, with illustrations by Quentin Blake.



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Potter left all of her property to the National Trust when she died. She left fifteen farms (including Yew Tree Farm, shown here) and over 4,000 acres (1618 hectares). Her home, Hill Top Farm, is visited by thousands of people each year.



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Beatrix Potter died of pneumonia on the 22nd of December 1943 in Cumbria, England. She was 77 years old.



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