

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?

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

- Tarragona
- Barcelona
- Mallorca
- Catalonia

3. Why did Gaudi move to Barcelona?

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

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

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?

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