

Al Capone



- Alphonse Capone was born on January 17, 1899, in Brooklyn, New York City. His parents were Gabriel and Teresa Capone, who had immigrated to the United States in 1893 from Naples, Italy. Capone came from a large family and was the fourth oldest of nine children.
- At about the age of eleven Capone became a member of a juvenile gang in his neighbourhood. Al Capone's philosophy was that laws only applied to people who had enough money to live by them. So, Capone became a member of the gang. In this gang, Capone was taught how to defend himself with a knife and with a gun. He also became an expert knife fighter. He was quickly picked up by the most powerful gang in New York City that was made up of over 1,500 thugs who specialized in burglary, extortion, robbery, assault and murder. The gang was headed by Johnny Torrio.



- On December 18, 1918, Capone was married at the age of 19, to a 21-year-old Irish girl named Mae Coughlin. A short time later Albert Francis Capone was born to the couple.
- Capone arrived in Chicago, where he was repeatedly arrested for assault, but was always released thanks to Torrio's police connections.

- When Torrio was shot by rival gang members and consequently decided to leave Chicago, Capone inherited the «out fit» and became boss.
- Al Capone's mob ran the streets of Chicago. At its peak, it had over 1,000 members and half of the Chicago police force. Capone gave bribes to police officers, state's attorneys, mayors, legislators, governors, and even congressmen. He became very, very rich. They had an income of about 100 000 000 dollars, that time it was a huge amount of money.
- As a result, he was arrested and in May 1932, Capone was sent to Atlanta, the toughest of the federal prisons, to begin his eleven-year sentence. Even in prison, Capone took control, obtaining special privileges from the authorities such as furnishing his cell with a mirror, typewriter, rugs, and a set of the Encyclopedia Britannica.
- But in 1934, he was transferred to Alcatraz, also known as "The Rock", where the situation became different and he lost all connections with external world. Five years later he was released from Alcatraz due to a case of untreated disease. In January 1947, Capone had a massive brain hemorrhage and died. The family held a private ceremony at the cemetery, but was afraid of robbers taking the body so they reburied Capone in a secret place in another Cemetery.

