

**Al Capone – Hero or
Zero?**

What?

When?



Where?

Who?

Why?



Who was Al Capone?

- Sort the statements about Capone's life into chronological order (earliest first) by numbering the boxes. The first and last have been done for you.
- Which four statements are the most important? Put a * next to them. Be ready to give a reason for your choice.

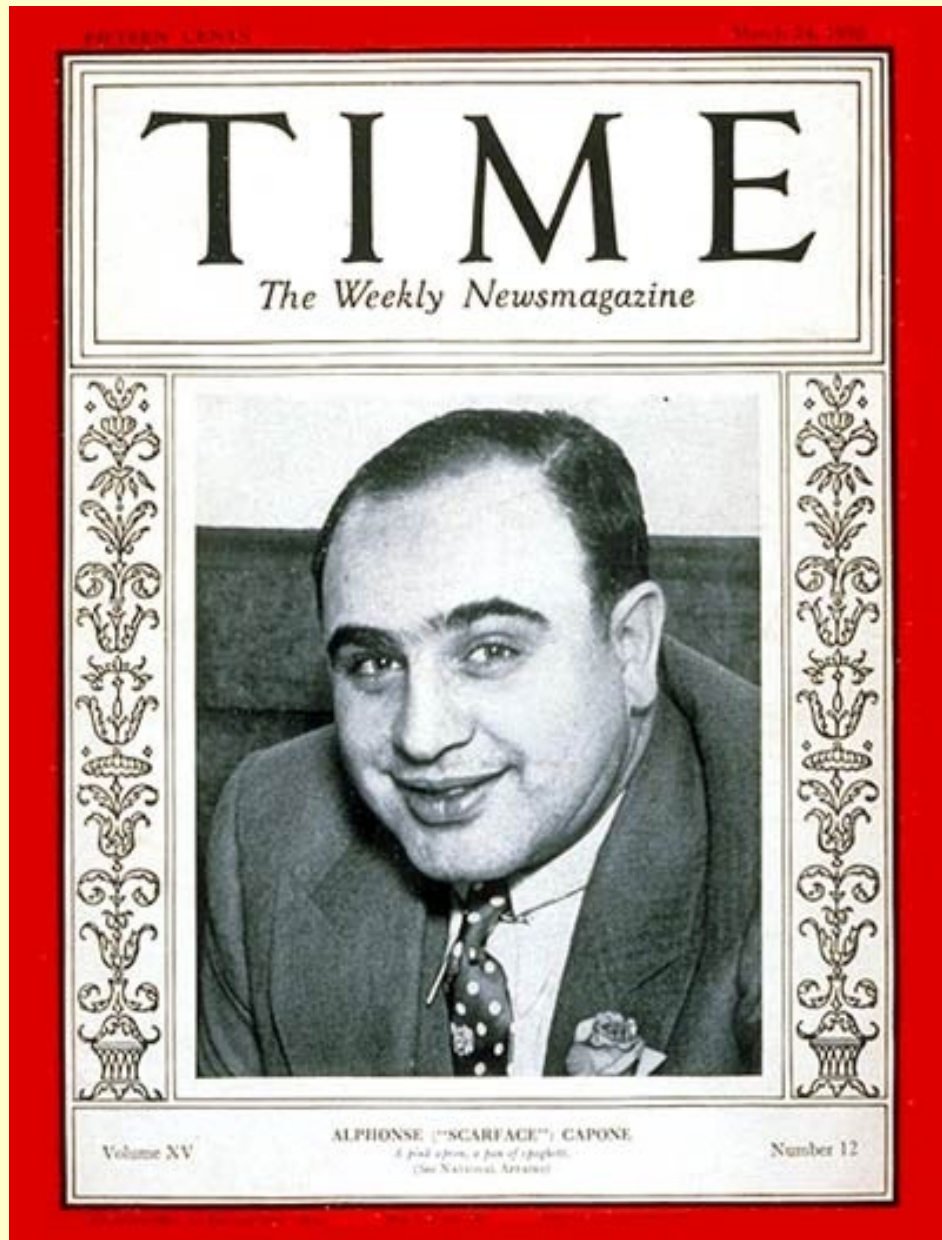
Order	Feature of Capone's life	Importance
	By 1927, Capone had 700 men in his gang. He ordered the murder of his rivals. In 4 years there were 227 killings,	
8	In 1939, Capone was released from prison as he was suffering from a brain disease. He retired to Florida and died in 1947 from a heart attack.	
	In 1917, Capone was working as a barman and bouncer. He was rude to a girl. Her brother slashed Capone's face, earning him the nickname 'Scarface'.	
	On St Valentine's Day 1929, Capone ordered an attack on his biggest rival, Bugs Moran. His hit men dressed as police officers and shot seven members of Moran's gang.	
1	Born in January 1899 in New York. His parents moved to America from Italy. He was one of 8 Children.	
	By 1930, Capone was declared to be Public Enemy Number 1 by the President. However, no witnesses could be found to any of his crimes. He was eventually sent to prison for not paying his taxes.	
	In 1925, Capone took over the gang when Torrio retired. Other gangsters tried to kill him so he bought a bulletproof car and employed bodyguards.	
	In 1919, Capone moved to Chicago to work for a gang boss called Johnny Torrio. They took over several other gangs and bribed officials to 'look the other way'.	

Why did some people think he was a hero?

- What is a hero like?
 - What do these images suggest a Hero is like?
 - Write a list of characteristics a hero might have.

- Look at the sources on the next pages– why might some people like Capone?





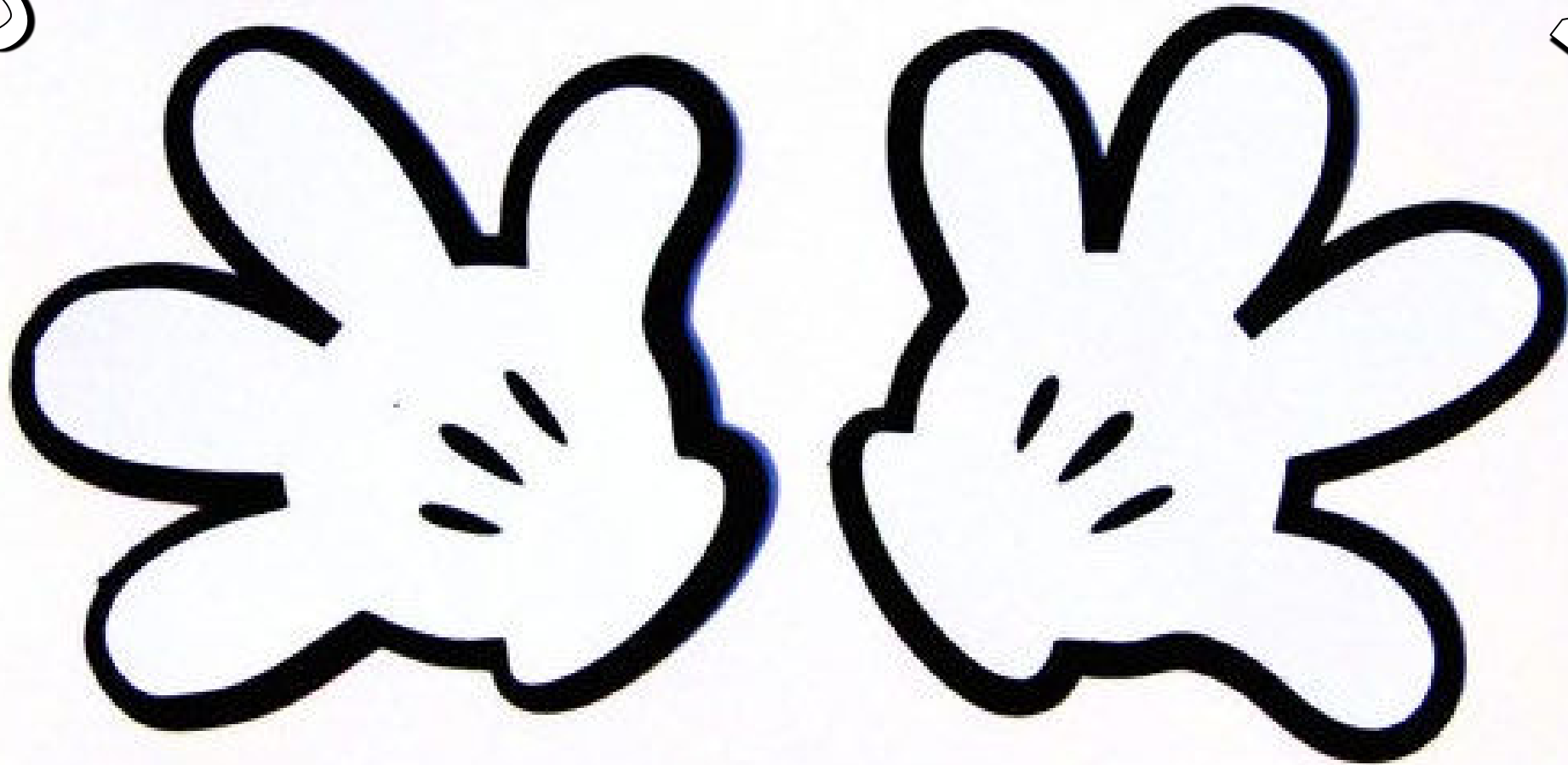
- Time magazine was one of America's best-selling weekly magazines.
- In March 1930, Capone was featured on the front cover. He had become a celebrity.
- When he went out in public he was cheered, he opened jazz clubs, organised expensive parties and went to the best sporting events.
- Everyone knew he was a criminal, but he bribed the police, so he was never convicted of any crimes.

'People in Chicago back then looked on Al Capone as a Robin Hood - he helped the poor. My uncle worked for him. He had a dry cleaning place and Capone used it as a headquarters for selling illegal alcohol...Capone sold my uncle the alcohol for \$12 a gallon and we'd sell it to people for \$18 a gallon'

Milt Hilton in his book 'Memories of Al Capone'

Was Capone a Hero or a Zero?

Hero



Zero

Overall, I think he was...because...