

“I never really thought I would be an artist. But I never stopped painting. That was my passion.”

DOMINGO ZAPATA



Make It HAPPEN!



Before Reading

Think about your own goals. Do you want to play soccer or make music? All of these activities take time and practice.

During Reading

During reading, review the highlighted vocab words. While learning about Domingo, understand how he got to where he is today. What **skills** has he shown that have helped his **career**? In each chapter, the Make It Happen! activity will help you, too, build skills to reach your own goals.

After Reading

Look in the back of the book for questions and activities to help you think about Domingo's story. Share these with a friend, parent, or teacher. Also, talk about the skills you need to reach your goals.

skill: the ability to do something that comes from training, experience, or practice

career: a job or profession that someone does for a long time



Contents

Early Life 6

First Steps of the Journey ... 10

Overcoming Obstacles 14

Teamwork 18

Current Career 22

Defining Moments 26

Depth of Knowledge 28

Activity 29

Glossary 30

Read More 31

Internet Links 31

Bibliography 32

Index 32

Early Life



Mallorca is a popular place for people to visit.

An **artist** stands on the roof of a tall building. The bustling city of New York spreads out all around. Above him is an 11,875-pound crystal ball. The ball drops at midnight every New Year's Eve. He puts his hand on the giant ball. It glitters with all the colors of the rainbow. He smiles. Soon he will bring his own color to this building. His **mural** will hang high above the city he loves.

Domingo Zapata has been making art since he was a child. He grew up in Mallorca, Spain. Domingo's family was a happy one. His father fixed cars and his mother sewed clothes.

Like his family, Domingo is **creative**. Like his hometown, Domingo's art is full of color and excitement. He works hard to fulfill his greatest goal. He wants to fill the world with beauty.



Domingo (left) had a lot of fun playing with his brother Joaquin.

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artist: a person who expresses themselves by creating work that is beautiful and meaningful

mural: a large piece of art that is on a wall, ceiling, or the outside of a building

creative: having an ability to use imagination, make new things, or think of new ideas

Family

Along with his mother and father, Domingo has an older brother, Joaquin. Domingo has good memories of growing up. “We were a humble family,” Domingo said. “We grew up happy.”

Domingo and Joaquin both liked art. Joaquin loved music. He played the guitar. Domingo was very imaginative. He liked drawing, **painting**, and writing. At age 10, Domingo painted murals on the walls of his school. As a kid, he even wrote a book. “I was always very creative, finding ways to express myself,” Domingo said.

Domingo went to an international middle school. Students and teachers came from around the world. “At the beginning it was hard,” he said. “But it was a great experience. It opened up the world for me.” Domingo did well at his new school.



Domingo loved to ride his horse, Furia.

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painting: making artwork by using a brush to cover an area with paint

He studied new subjects. He met people from different countries. Domingo developed **global awareness** by working with people from different cultures.

global awareness: understanding the importance of issues that affect the world, instead of just smaller parts like a neighborhood or city

Make It HAPPEN! Develop a Hobby

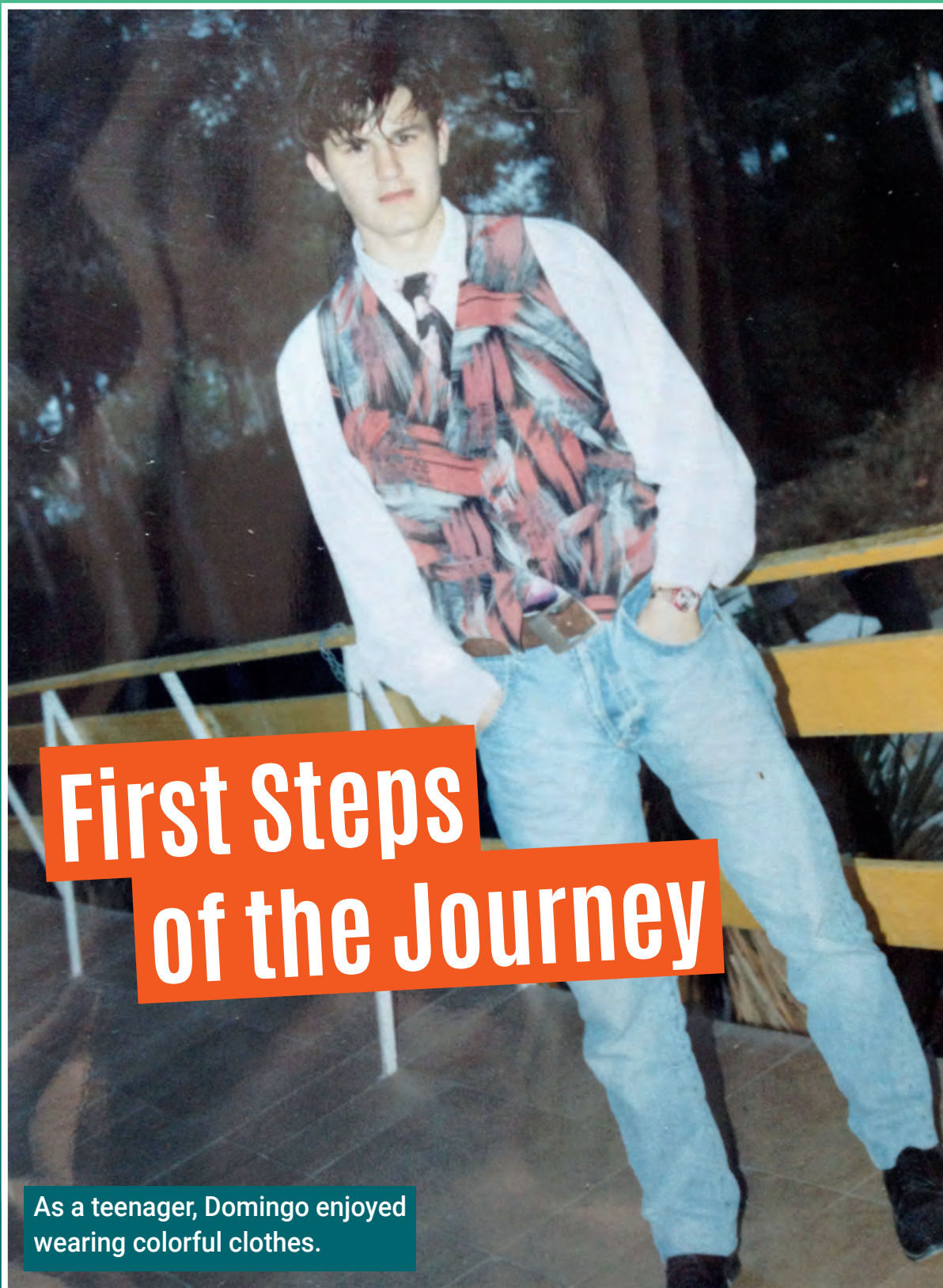
Domingo had many creative hobbies as a kid. Hobbies can be fun. As you learn a new hobby, you can improve your **problem-solving skills**.

- Pick a hobby that interests you. You could try painting, like Domingo. Or you could try sewing, like his mom. Music is another option.
- Learn the basics. Check your local library for a book on your new hobby. You can also find a teacher or **mentor**.
- Practice often. Domingo worked on his art all the time. You can create a practice schedule to stay on track.

problem-solving skills: abilities that help a person find a solution to a hard question or situation

mentor: a person who teaches or gives help to another person who is usually younger and less experienced

What problems did you run into while learning your new hobby? How did you solve them? Are you interested in being an artist like Domingo?



First Steps of the Journey

As a teenager, Domingo enjoyed wearing colorful clothes.

Domingo was **ambitious**. He wanted to be the first person in his family to attend college. A school in London picked him. It was looking for students with talent in art. The big city of London was very different from his hometown. Domingo had **courage** and went to the new city alone.

For two years, Domingo lived in London. He watched movies for fun. Many took place in the United States. The films inspired Domingo. “I wanted to come to America,” he said.

Domingo chose to attend college in Washington, DC. He studied politics but did not forget his passion for art. Domingo took art classes on the side. Every night, he painted.

After a few years, Domingo made a final big move. This time, it was to New York City. “I love cultural things— theater, plays, musicals, museums. I always had that attraction, so I came to New York,” he said.



Domingo works in a special place for painting, called an art studio.

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ambitious: having a strong desire to be successful

courage: the ability to face your fears