



Women History Month

MAYA ANGELOU

Reading Comprehension



Name _____

Date _____

MAYA ANGELOU

Comprehension Questions

DIRECTIONS: CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER.

1. When was Maya Angelou born?

- a. April 3, 1928
- b. April 4, 1928
- c. May 4, 1928
- d. May 4, 1928

2. What challenges did she face?

- a. Economic
- b. Racism, poverty
- c. Lack of education
- d. Health issues

3. What role did she play in San Francisco?

- a. Teacher
- b. Lawyer
- c. Streetcar
- d. Mayor

4. In which decade did she publish her autobiography?

- a. 1950s
- b. 1960s
- c. 1970s
- d. 1980s

5. Maya Angelou lived in which city?

- a. St. Louis
- b. San Francisco
- c. New York
- d. Harlem

6. What is the theme of her work?

- a. Harlem Renaissance
- b. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings
- c. The Litter
- d. Resilience

Angelou worked closely with which leader?

- a. Parks and Nelson Mandela
- b. Malcolm X and Maya Lin
- c. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X
- d. Rosa Parks and Cesar Chavez

7. What awards did Maya Angelou receive for her work?

- a. Pulitzer Prize
- b. Nobel Prize
- c. Grammy
- d. Oscar

8. How did her work impact the world?

- a. It inspired many people to fight for civil rights.
- b. It showed the importance of education.
- c. It highlighted the struggles of African Americans.
- d. It promoted the idea of equality.

9. What was the core of Maya Angelou's message?

- a. The importance of family.
- b. The power of love and resilience.
- c. The struggle for equality.
- d. The beauty of nature.

10. What are the main themes of her work?

- a. Love, resilience, and the struggle for equality.
- b. The importance of education and family.
- c. The beauty of nature and the power of love.
- d. The struggle for equality and the importance of family.

MAYA ANGELOU



EARLY LIFE

Maya Angelou, the celebrated poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist, was born on April 4, 1928, in St. Louis, Missouri, USA. Maya's early years were marked by hardship and adversity, as she faced racism, poverty, and trauma during her childhood. Despite these challenges, Maya's indomitable spirit and love for literature sustained her through difficult times, instilling in her a passion for writing and storytelling.

PURSUIT OF EDUCATION

Maya Angelou's passion for literature and her determination to overcome adversity led her to pursue education. As a young woman, she worked as a domestic and a streetcar conductor. Despite these challenges, she persevered and eventually earned a Bachelor's degree in English from San Francisco State University. Her education played a crucial role in her development as a writer and activist, allowing her to explore the complexities of race, identity, and social justice in her work.

LITERARY CAREER

Maya Angelou's foray into the literary world unfolded in the 1950s with her relocation to New York City and active participation in the Harlem Writers Guild. The pinnacle of her literary career came in 1969 with the publication of her debut autobiography, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings." This work garnered universal acclaim for its poignant candor and

NO-PREP & EDITABLE

READING PASSAGES WITH TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

Ready to Print

CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISM

Throughout her life, Maya Angelou was a passionate advocate for civil rights and social justice. She worked closely with leaders of the civil rights movement, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, using her platform as a writer and speaker to raise awareness about the struggles of African Americans and marginalized communities. Maya's powerful words and unwavering commitment to equality inspired countless people to stand up against injustice and oppression.

ACHIEVEMENT

Maya Angelou's literary achievements have earned her widespread recognition and acclaim. She received numerous awards and honors throughout her lifetime, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the National Medal of Arts, and three Grammy Awards for her spoken word albums. Maya's contributions to literature and social activism have left an indelible mark on American culture and inspired generations of writers and activists.

IMPACT

Maya Angelou's impact extends far beyond the realm of words; it has touched the hearts and minds of millions, providing comfort, inspiration, and hope in times of adversity. Maya's message of resilience, self-love, and empathy continues to resonate with people from all backgrounds, reminding us of the power of healing, uplift, and unity.



LEGACY

Maya Angelou's legacy as a writer and cultural icon continues to inspire generations. Her courage, compassion, and unwavering commitment to social justice have left an indelible mark, reminding us of the importance of empathy, equality, and the power of the voice for the voiceless. Her legacy will endure for generations to come.



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EARLY LIFE

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PURSUIT OF EDUCATION

Maya Angelou's passion for literature and education fueled her pursuit of a career as a writer, overcoming formidable challenges. Towards the end of the 1940s, during the Black woman in mid-20th-century America. In her pursuit of literary and educational goals, Angelou undertook diverse roles, including those of a nightclub dancer and singer, to sustain herself financially. Despite societal barriers, she persisted in her quest for higher education. Maya's unwavering commitment to knowledge and success led to a groundbreaking achievement, as she became the first Black woman to hold the position of a streetcar conductor in San Francisco. This role reflects not only the resilience of an individual overcoming adversity but also the transformative power of education in breaking down societal barriers.

LITERARY CAREER

Maya Angelou's foray into the literary world unfolded through her relocation to New York City and active participation in the Harlem Renaissance. The pinnacle of her literary career came with the publication of her debut autobiography, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings." This work garnered universal acclaim for its poignant prose, establishing Angelou as a formidable writer. Undeterred by the challenges of delving into personal experiences to enrich the literary landscape with a new voice, she continued to enrich the literary landscape with a series of autobiographies, complemented by her contributions to poetry and plays. Maya's literary endeavors earned her a wealth of critical acclaim and accolades, cementing her legacy as a distinguished figure in the world of literature.

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MAYA ANGELOU

Comprehension Questions

DIRECTIONS: CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER.

I. When was Maya Angelou born?

- April 3, 1929
- April 4, 1928
- May 1, 1928
- May 4, 1928

_____ during her early

_____ the first Black woman to

_____ ish her debut
rd Sings?"

_____ -1947

Answers Key

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS:

1. b. April 4, 1928
2. b. Racism, poverty, and trauma
3. c. Streetcar conductor
4. c. Maya
5. c. New York City
6. b. "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings"
7. c. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X
8. c. Grammy Awards
9. b. Adversity
10. b. Activism and cultural impact

EXPLANATORY QUESTIONS:

1. Maya Angelou was born in St. Louis, Missouri, USA, in 1928.
2. Maya Angelou faced racism, poverty, and trauma during her early years.
3. Maya Angelou became the first Black woman to work as a streetcar conductor in San Francisco.
4. Maya Angelou's literary career began in the 1950s.
5. New York City played a crucial role in Maya Angelou's literary journey in the 1950s.

READING
COMPREHENSION

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DIRECTIONS: CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER.

1. When was Maya Angelou born?

- a. April 3, 1929
- b. April 4, 1928
- c. May 4, 1929
- d. May 4, 1928

2. What challenges did Maya Angelou face during her early years?

- a. Economic struggles
- b. Racism, poverty, and trauma
- c. Lack of education
- d. Health issues

3. What role did Maya Angelou become the first Black woman to hold in San Francisco?

- a. Teacher
- b. Lawyer
- c. Streetcar conductor
- d. Mayor

4. In which decade did Maya Angelou publish her debut autobiography, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings"?

- a. 1940s
- b. 1950s
- c. 1960s
- d. 1970s

5. Maya Angelou's career began in which city?

7. Maya Angelou worked closely with which leaders in the civil rights movement?

- a. Rosa Parks and Nelson Mandela
- b. Malcolm X and Maya Lin
- c. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X
- d. Martin Luther King Jr. and Cesar Chavez

8. What did Maya Angelou receive for her spoken word poetry?

- a. Nobel Prize
- b. Pulitzer Prize
- c. Grammy Award
- d. Academy Award

9. How does Maya Angelou's impact go beyond literature, providing times of:

- a. Joy
- b. Sorrow
- c. Hope
- d. Fear

10. What is emphasized as the core of Maya Angelou's legacy in her work?

- a. Excellence in writing
- b. Her personal and cultural impact
- c. Her struggles and triumphs
- d. Her awards and honors

EXTENSION QUESTIONS:

11. In what year was Maya Angelou born, and what year?

12. What challenges marked Maya Angelou's early years?

13. What groundbreaking achievement did Maya Angelou accomplish in the field of education?

14. Which decade did Maya Angelou's literary career begin?

15. How did her childhood play a crucial role in Maya Angelou's literary journey in the 1950s?

Answers Key

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS:

- 1. b. April 4, 1928
- 2. b. Racism, poverty, and trauma
- 3. c. Streetcar conductor
- 4. b. 1950s
- 5. b. St. Louis, Missouri
- 6. c. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X
- 7. c. Grammy Award
- 8. c. Joy
- 9. b. Her personal and cultural impact
- 10. b. Excellence in writing and her struggles

EXPLANATORY QUESTIONS:

- 11. Maya Angelou was born in St. Louis, Missouri, USA, in 1928.
- 12. Maya Angelou faced racism, poverty, and trauma during her early years.
- 13. Maya Angelou became the first Black woman to work as a streetcar conductor in San Francisco.
- 14. Maya Angelou's literary career began in the 1950s.
- 15. Her childhood in St. Louis played a crucial role in Maya Angelou's literary journey in the 1950s.

MCQ'S & QUESTIONS

**ANSWER KEY
INCLUDED**

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NO-PREP !

JUST PRINT AND GO!



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