

Black History

DUKE ELLINGTON



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

DUKE ELLINGTON



Duke Ellington was an American composer, pianist, and bandleader who was one of the most influential figures in jazz history. He was born Edward Kennedy Ellington on April 18, 1899, in Washington, D.C., and died on May 24, 1974, in New York City.

Ellington's contributions to jazz were enormous, and his impact on the music was felt well beyond his lifetime. He was a masterful composer, bandleader, and pianist, and his music continues to be celebrated and performed to this day. He also was a civil rights activist and a humanitarian, using his platform to promote racial equality and social justice.

Ellington began his career in the 1920s, leading his own band and composing music. For it, he quickly established himself as a leading figure in the jazz scene and went on to become one of the most prolific and celebrated jazz composers of all time. He wrote and recorded more than 1,000 compositions, many of which have become jazz standards, such as "Take the A Train," "Mood Indigo," and "It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)." He is mentioned as a

- ... addition to being a ...
... mentioned in the paragraph ...
- a. Scientist
 - b. Civil rights activist
 - c. Athlete
 - d. Politician

NO-PREP

READING COMPREHENSION

READING PASSAGES WITH TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

Ready to Print

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In conclusion, Duke Ellington was an American composer, pianist, and bandleader, one of the most influential figures in jazz history. He wrote and recorded more than 1,000 compositions, many of which have become jazz standards. He led his band for over 50 years and it was known for its innovative arrangements, tight ensemble playing, and distinctive sound. He was not only a musician but also a civil rights activist and a humanitarian. His contributions to jazz and music in general, continue to be celebrated and performed to this day.

Ellington's band was one of the most renowned and respected jazz ensembles of all time, featuring some of the most talented musicians of the era, including saxophonist Johnny Hodges, drummer Sonny Greer, and trumpeter Cootie Williams. He led the band for over 50 years, and it was known for its innovative arrangements, tight ensemble playing, and distinctive sound.

4. Who was one of the saxophonists in Duke Ellington's renowned band?
- Charlie Parker
 - Johnny Hodges
 - Sonny Rollins
 - Coleman Hawkins

5. In addition to being a musician, what other roles did Duke Ellington play, as mentioned in the paragraph?
- Scientist
 - Civil rights activist and humanitarian
 - Athlete
 - Politician

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

6. When did Duke Ellington pass away?
- May 24, 1965
 - April 23, 1974
 - June 5, 1982
 - September 5, 1969

7. Which of Duke Ellington's compositions is mentioned as a jazz standard in the paragraph?

a. My Favorite Things

ANSWER QUESTIONS

DATE: _____

1. WRITE THE CORRECT ANSWER.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

READING COMPREHENSION

ANSWERS

1. Where was Duke Ellington born?
- Answer: a. Washington, DC
2. What is one of Duke Ellington's famous compositions?
- Answer: b. Take the A Train
3. How many compositions did Duke Ellington write and record?
- Answer: c. 1000
4. Who was one of the saxophonists in Duke Ellington's band?
- Answer: b. Johnny Hodges
5. In addition to being a musician, what other roles did Duke Ellington play?
- Answer: b. Civil rights activist and humanitarian
6. When did Duke Ellington pass away?
- Answer: b. April 23, 1974
7. Which of Duke Ellington's compositions is mentioned as a jazz standard in the paragraph?
- Answer: b. Mood Indigo
8. How long did Duke Ellington lead his band?
- Answer: c. 50 years
9. Who was the drummer in Duke Ellington's renowned band?
- Answer: b. Sonny Greer
10. What was Duke Ellington known for in addition to his music?
- Answer: d. Tight ensemble playing

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

6. When did Duke Ellington pass away?
a. May 24, 1965

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

DIRECTIONS: CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER.

1. Where was Duke Ellington born?

- a. New York City
- b. Chicago
- c. Washington, D.C.
- d. New Orleans

2. What is one of Duke Ellington's famous compositions mentioned in the paragraph?

- a. Blue Monk
- b. Take the A Train
- c. So What
- d. Giant Steps

3. How many compositions did Duke Ellington write and record?

- a. 500
- b. 750
- c. 1,000
- d. 1,500

4. Who

his renowned band?

the Ellington play, as

1961

Ellington's compositions is mentioned as a jazz standard in the

things

name

Duke Ellington lead his band?

the drummer in Duke Ellington's renowned band?

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reer

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What Duke Ellington known for in addition to his innovative arrangements

ive sound?

ical compositions

jazz fusion

g-wards experimentation

ensemble playing

ANSWERS

1. Where was Duke Ellington born?

- Answer: c. Washington, D.C.

2. What is one of Duke Ellington's famous compositions mentioned in the paragraph?

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10. What was Duke Ellington known for in addition to his innovative arrangements and distinctive sound?

- Answer: d. Tight ensemble playing

MCQ'S &
QUESTIONS

ANSWER KEY
INCLUDED

CLOSE READING GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS INCLUDED

GROUP ACTIVITY

TITLE OF TEXT _____

WHAT I THINK _____

ANNOTATING MARKS

- ✓ Circle powerful words or phrases.
- ✓ Underline words or phrases you do not understand.
- ✓ Place a question mark next to words or phrases that make you think.
- ✓ Write an exclamation point next to something interesting.

SUMMARIZE

Write a summary of the passage. The main idea should be stated in your first sentence. Then use the four details to write four supporting sentences. Close your summary by restating the main idea.

NAME: _____

MAIN IDEA

NAME: _____

TITLE OF TEXT _____

MAIN IDEA _____

SUPPORTING DETAILS #1 _____

SUPPORTING DETAILS #2 _____

SUPPORTING DETAILS #3 _____

VOCABULARY GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

NAME: _____

TITLE OF TEXT _____

UNKNOWN WORD _____

UNKNOWN WORD _____

UNKNOWN WORD _____

CLUES FROM TEXT & MEANING _____

CLUES FROM TEXT & MEANING _____

CLUES FROM TEXT & MEANING _____