# Plack History **DUKE ELLINGTON**



REHENSION QUESTIONS

# **DUKE ELLINGTON**



Duke Ellington was an American composer, plantst, and bandleader who was one of the most influential figures in jazz history. He was born Edward Kennedy Ellington on April 1899, 29, in Washington, D.C., and died on May 1974, 24, in New

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 plantst, 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 LOOD 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 Swine)"

READING COMPREHENSION

# **READING PASSAGES WITH TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS**

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In conclusion, Duke Ellington was an American composer, planist, 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 lazz 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 Green, 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.

# Ready to Print

### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

- 6. When did Duke Ellington pass away?
  - a. May 24, 1965
  - b. April 29, 1974 c. June 15, 1982
  - d. September 5, 1969
- 7. Which of Duke Ellington's compositions is mentioned as a jazz standard in the paragraph?
- a. My Favorite Things

### NSION QUESTIONS

F THE CORRECT ANSWER

naton born?

l band?

e Ellington's famous compositions mentioned in the paragraph?

ions did Duke Ellinaton write and record?

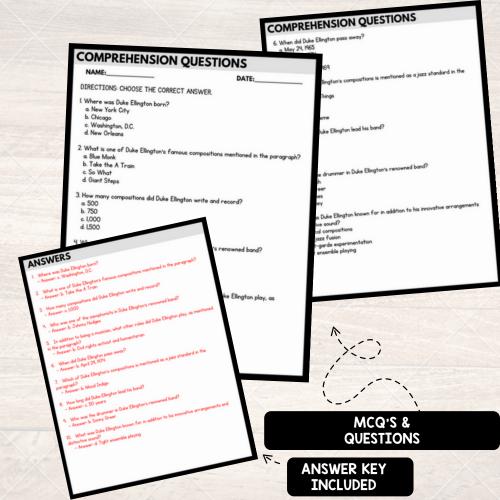
- Who was one of the saxophonists in Duke Ellinaton's renowned band?
- a. Charlie Parker
- b. Johnny Hodges
- c. Sonny Rollins
- d. Coleman Hawkins
- 5. In addition to being a musician, what other roles did Duke Ellington play, as mentioned in the paragraph?
- a. Scientist
- b. Civil rights activist and humanitarian c Athlete
- d Politician

# **ANSWERS**

- Where was Duke Ellington born? Answer: c. Washington, D.C.
- Answer: b. Take the A Train

- Who was one of the saxophonists in Duke Elling
- nower: b. Civil rights activist and humanitarian
- When did Duke Ellington pass away? Answer: b. April 29, 1974
- Which of Duke Ellington's comp
- newer: b. Mood Indigo
- How long did Duke Ellington lead his band?
- ho was the drummer in Duke Ellington's renow
- hat was Duke Ellington known for in addition to his in een d. Tight ensemble playing

# READING COMPREHENSION



# CLOSE READING GRAPHIC ORGNIZERS INCLUDED

