

# AAPI Heritage Month

# YO-YO MA

## READING COMPREHENSION

**NO-PREP &**

**EDITABLE**



A sample of the reading comprehension material. It features a newspaper-style article titled "YO-YO MA" with a small photo of him playing the double bass. The text includes biographical information and mentions of awards. The article is partially obscured by a green callout box in the bottom right corner.

**READING COMPREHENSION  
MCQ'S  
QUESTIONS  
ANSWER KEY**

## READING PASSAGES WITH TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

### YO-YO MA

Yo-Yo Ma was born on October 7, 1955, in Paris, France, to Chinese parents. His father, Hoo-Tsun Ma, was a violinist and professor of music, while his mother, Marina Lu, was a singer. The family moved to the United States when Yo-Yo was young, where he began studying the cello at the age of four. His prodigious talent and passion for music became evident early on, setting the stage for his remarkable musical journey.



#### EDUCATION

Yo-Yo Ma's musical education began under the guidance of his father, who was his first teacher. He later studied at the Juilliard School in New York City, where he flourished under the mentorship of Leonard Rose, one of the preeminent cellists of the 20th century. Ma's exceptional talent and dedication to his craft propelled him to international recognition at a young age, laying the groundwork for his future success.

#### RISE TO PROMINENCE

Yo-Yo Ma's rise to prominence began in the 1970s when he embarked on a solo career, captivating audiences with his virtuosic performances and expressive interpretations. His unparalleled mastery of the cello, coupled with his charismatic stage presence, quickly established him as one of the leading musicians of his generation. Ma's diverse repertoire and collaborative spirit endeared him to audiences worldwide, earning him critical acclaim and numerous awards.

#### HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

Yo-Yo Ma is renowned for his philanthropic endeavors, advocating for arts education and social change. Through initiatives like The Silk Road Project and the Bach Project, he collaborates to use music as a tool for positive impact. His commitment to leveraging the power of music for social good extends his influence beyond the realm of classical performance.

Ready to Print &  
Editable



#### GRAMMY AWARDS

Yo-Yo Ma has been honored with numerous Grammy Awards throughout his career, including recognition for Best Classical Crossover Album and Best Instrumental Soloist Performance. His exceptional artistry and contributions to chamber music have earned him critical acclaim in the music industry. These accolades underscore his mastery of the cello and his enduring impact on classical music.

#### PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

In 2018, Yo-Yo Ma was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States. This prestigious accolade recognized his profound contributions to the arts and humanities, honoring his remarkable career as a cellist and cultural ambassador. The award highlights Ma's enduring legacy as a global icon in the world of classical music.

#### SILK ROAD ENSEMBLE

Founded by Yo-Yo Ma in 2000, the Silk Road Ensemble is a collective of musicians from diverse cultural backgrounds. This innovative group explores the intersections of different musical traditions, fostering cross-cultural dialogue and understanding through their performances. The ensemble's collaborative spirit reflects Ma's vision of using music as a bridge between cultures.



#### LEGACY

Yo-Yo Ma's legacy transcends the boundaries of classical music. As a virtuoso cellist, educator, and cultural ambassador, he has inspired millions around the world with his artistry and humanitarian efforts. Ma's commitment to using music as a tool for fostering unity and understanding reflects his belief in the transformative power of the arts. His legacy serves as a testament to the universal language of music and its ability to connect people across cultures and generations.

## READING COMPREHENSION

COLORED & B/W  
VERSIONS INCLUDED

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# YO-YO MA

DIRECTIONS: CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER.

1. When was Yo-Yo Ma born?
  - a) October 7, 1955
  - b) November 12, 1960
  - c) September 3, 1970
  - d) December 22, 1980
2. Where was Yo-Yo Ma born?
  - a) Beijing, China
  - b) Paris, France
  - c) New York City, USA
  - d) London, England
3. Where did Yo-Yo Ma study music?
  - a) Harvard University
  - b) Juilliard School
  - c) Oxford University
  - d) Berklee College of Music
4. What award did Yo-Yo Ma receive in 2017?
  - a) Pulitzer Prize
  - b) Grammy Award
  - c) Nobel Prize
  - d) Presidential Medal of Freedom
5. What is the Silk Road Ensemble?
  - a) A music festival
  - b) A record label
  - c) A collective of musicians
  - d) A concert hall

### SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. When was Yo-Yo Ma born?
2. What prestigious award did Yo-Yo Ma receive in 2017?
3. What is the Silk Road Ensemble?
4. Where did Yo-Yo Ma study music?
5. What is one aspect of Yo-Yo Ma's commitment to using music for social change?

### 6. When was the Silk Road Ensemble's Grammy Award?

- a) 1990
- b) 2000
- c) 2010
- d) 2020

### 7. What is one achievement mentioned in Ma's Grammy Award?

- a) Best New Artist
- b) Best New Vocal Album
- c) Best Classical Chamber Album
- d) Best Pop Song

### 8. Who was Yo-Yo Ma's mentor at the Juilliard School?

- a) Leonard Bernstein
- b) Leonard Slatkin
- c) Leonard Cooke
- d) Leonard Cohen

### 9. What is the Presidential Medal of Freedom?

- a) The highest military honor
- b) The highest civilian honor
- c) A presidential and state award
- d) A humanitarian recognition

### 10. What is one aspect of Yo-Yo Ma's legacy?

- a) His contributions to environmental conservation
- b) His impact on literature
- c) His advocacy for social justice
- d) His commitment to using music for social change

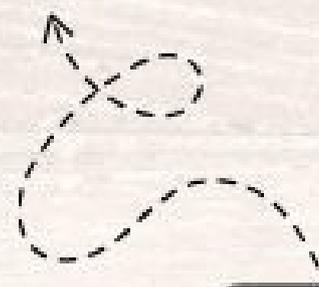
## ANSWER KEY

MCQ

1. a) October 7, 1955
2. b) Paris, France
3. b) Juilliard School
4. b) Juilliard School
5. d) A collective of musicians
6. c) 2010
7. c) Best Classical Chamber Album
8. a) Leonard Bernstein
9. b) The highest civilian honor
10. d) His commitment to using music for social change

### SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Yo-Yo Ma was born on October 7, 1955.
2. Yo-Yo Ma received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2017.
3. The Silk Road Ensemble is a collective of musicians founded by Yo-Yo Ma in 2002.
4. Yo-Yo Ma studied music at the Juilliard School.
5. One aspect of Yo-Yo Ma's legacy mentioned in the passage is his commitment to using music for social change.



**10 - MCQ'S & 5 QUESTIONS**

**ANSWER KEY INCLUDED**

**READY TO PRINT**

**NO-PREP !**

**JUST PRINT AND GO!**



**EASY EDITING**

**EDITABLE**

**\* FONTS ARE EMBEDDED FOR CONVENIENCE**

