

# Influential Musicians

Music has a way of uniting people. Read the stories below of four talented, influential musicians whose music has inspired listeners around the world.

## Ella Fitzgerald

With a career spanning a jaw-dropping 60 years, Ella Fitzgerald is one of the bestselling jazz singers in history.

Known as the 'First Lady of Jazz', she was born in Virginia, USA in 1917 and was the first woman to perform jazz to a wider audience. They fell in love with her clear tone and wide vocal range. It hadn't always been Ella's plan to sing; she wanted to dance but panicked when she was due to go on stage at a contest and chose to sing instead. She won first prize.

Ella received 14 awards during her career, including one for lifetime achievement. She was the first woman to achieve this. In 1993, Ella set up a foundation to support people of all races, cultures and beliefs to have better opportunities in life.



## Aretha Franklin

Known around the world as the 'Queen of Soul', many people believe that Aretha Franklin is the greatest soul singer in the history of R & B music. She was born in Memphis, USA in 1942. Her talent became obvious when she taught herself to play the piano.

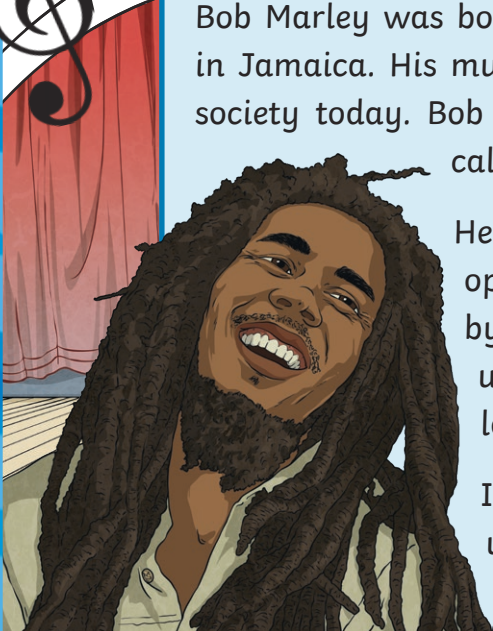
She achieved her first number one in 1967 with her single 'RESPECT'. This became a powerful anthem and this helped Aretha to become a symbol for feminism and **civil rights**. During her impressive 60-year career, she won 20 awards including one for lifetime achievement.

Aretha used her fame and influence to raise awareness of many causes, including improving healthcare and the environment.





## Bob Marley




Bob Marley was born as Robert Nesta Marley on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1945 in Jamaica. His music continues to have an important influence on society today. Bob made reggae music which contains elements of calypso and R & B.

He used his music to share his beliefs and to challenge opinions across the world. Many people are inspired by his lyrics. His songs encourage people to stand up for what they believe in and spread messages of love and unity among all people.

Interestingly, Bob Marley did not win any awards until after he stopped making music. He finally received a lifetime achievement award in 2001.



## Stormzy



Michael Omari, known as Stormzy, was born on 26<sup>th</sup> July 1993 in Croydon, London. He is a rapper who makes **grime** music, a genre of music that originated from London in the early 2000s and is now enjoyed across the world.

Stormzy began his by career by posting freestyling videos online, quickly gaining a large fan base. His popularity became apparent when his debut album became the first grime album to make it to number one in the British album chart; he also won British album of the year at an awards ceremony in 2018.

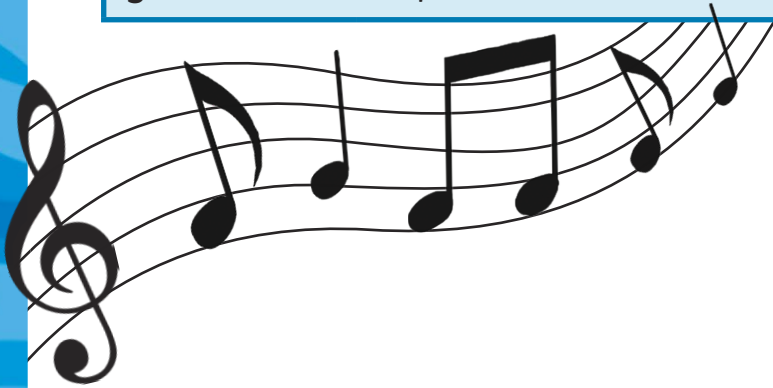
In 2019, he provided funding for two Black students to attend a British university. He said that he chose to support the students to encourage other young Black people to strive to achieve great things.

## Glossary

**R & B:** A kind of pop music with a soulful style.

**civil rights:** The right of all people to have freedom and equality.

**grime:** Popular music with a low bass line.



# Questions

1. Which musicians were born in the USA? Tick **two**.

- Aretha Franklin
- Ella Fitzgerald
- Bob Marley
- Stormzy

2. Number the events from 1-5 to show the order in which they occur in the text.  
The first one has been done for you.

- Ella Fitzgerald set up a foundation.
- Ella Fitzgerald was born.
- Bob Marley received a lifetime achievement award.
- Stormzy won British album of the year.
- Aretha Franklin achieved her first number one.

3. Find and copy a phrase which shows that Ella Fitzgerald's fans like her voice.

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4. What does reggae music contain elements of?

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5. Fill in the missing words.

Stormzy began his \_\_\_\_\_ by posting \_\_\_\_\_ videos online.

6. Look at the section about **Bob Marley**.

Discuss what you think it means that he didn't receive an award until after he'd stopped making music.

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7. Look at the section about **Stormzy**.

Why do you think his successes are celebrated? Explain your reason.

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8. Summarise in 30 words or fewer why Ella Fitzgerald is thought to be an influential musician.

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# Answers

1. Which musicians were born in the USA? Tick **two**.

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- 3** Ella Fitzgerald set up a foundation.
- 1** Ella Fitzgerald was born.
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- 5** Stormzy won British album of the year.
- 2** Aretha Franklin achieved her first number one.

3. Find and copy a phrase which shows that Ella Fitzgerald's fans like her voice.

**they fell in love**

4. What does reggae music contain elements of?

**Reggae music contains elements of calypso and R & B.**

5. Fill in the missing words.

Stormzy began his **career** by posting **freestyling** videos online.

6. Look at the section about **Bob Marley**.

Discuss what you think it means that he didn't receive an award until after he'd stopped making music.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think it means that Bob Marley's music was not recognised for its impact on society until a long time after he'd made it. Bob's music was not appreciated until after his career.**

7. Look at the section about **Stormzy**.

Why do you think his successes are celebrated? Explain your reason.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Stormzy's successes are celebrated because he is the very first musician to make grime music popular across the world.**

8. Summarise in 30 words or fewer why Ella Fitzgerald is thought to be an influential musician.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Ella Fitzgerald is influential because she was the first woman to perform jazz to a large audience and she used her fame to set up a foundation to help others.**



# Influential Musicians

Music has a way of uniting people. Read the fascinating stories below of four talented, influential musicians whose music has inspired listeners around the world.

## Ella Fitzgerald

An international legend with a career spanning a jaw-dropping 60 years, Ella Fitzgerald is one of the bestselling jazz singers in history.

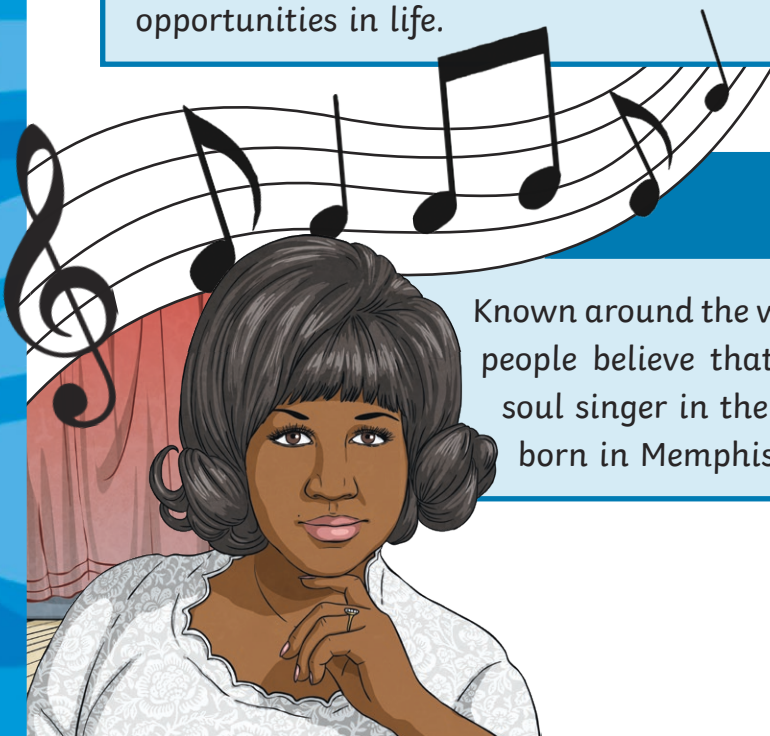
Known as the 'First Lady of Jazz', she was born in Virginia, USA in 1917. She was the first woman to perform this genre of music to a wide audience and people around the world fell in love with her clear tone and wide vocal range. It hadn't always been Ella's intention to become a singer; as a child, she wanted to dance but panicked when she was due to go on stage at a contest and chose to sing instead. Amazingly, despite the sudden change, she won first prize.

Throughout her career, Ella Fitzgerald was awarded with 14 awards; this included one for lifetime achievement. She was the first woman to achieve this prestigious award. In 1993, Ella set up a foundation with the intention of using her fame to help people of all races, cultures and beliefs to have better opportunities in life.

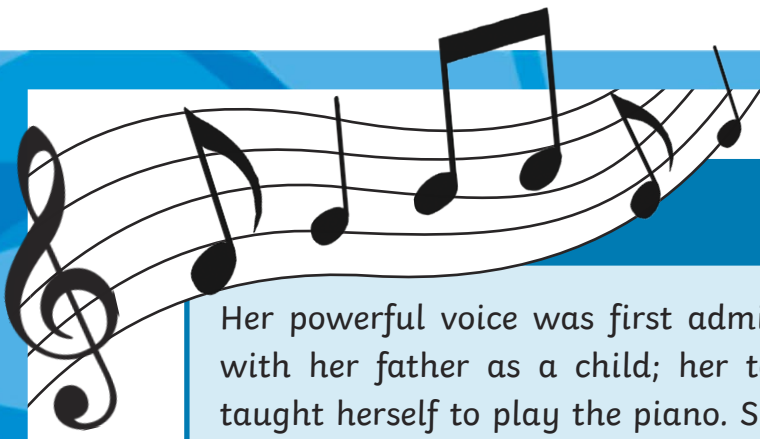


## Aretha Franklin

Known around the world as the 'Queen of Soul', many people believe that Aretha Franklin is the greatest soul singer in the history of **R & B** music. She was born in Memphis, USA in 1942.







## Aretha Franklin

Her powerful voice was first admired when she began performing with her father as a child; her talent became obvious when she taught herself to play the piano. She achieved her first number one in the USA in 1967 when she released her single 'RESPECT'. This became a powerful anthem and this helped Aretha to be recognised as a symbol for feminism and **civil rights**.

During her 60-year career, she won 20 awards including one for lifetime achievement. Aretha was a civil rights activist who used her fame and influence to raise awareness about causes that were important to her, such as improving healthcare and the environment.

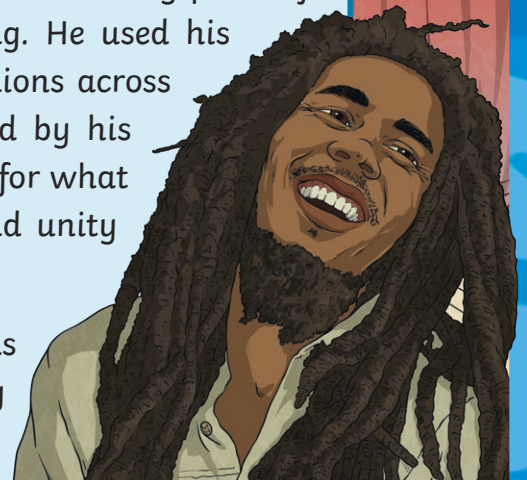


## Bob Marley

Born Robert Nesta Marley on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1945 in Jamaica, Bob Marley's music continues to have an important influence on society today. He made reggae music; a genre of music that contains elements of calypso and R & B.

Along with his band, the Wailers, Bob Marley toured many parts of the world delivering his messages through song. He used his music to share his beliefs and to challenge opinions across the world. Many people continue to be inspired by his lyrics. Bob's songs encourage people to stand up for what they believe in and spread messages of love and unity among all people.

Interestingly, Bob Marley did not win any awards until after he stopped making music. He finally received a lifetime achievement award in 2001.



## Stormzy



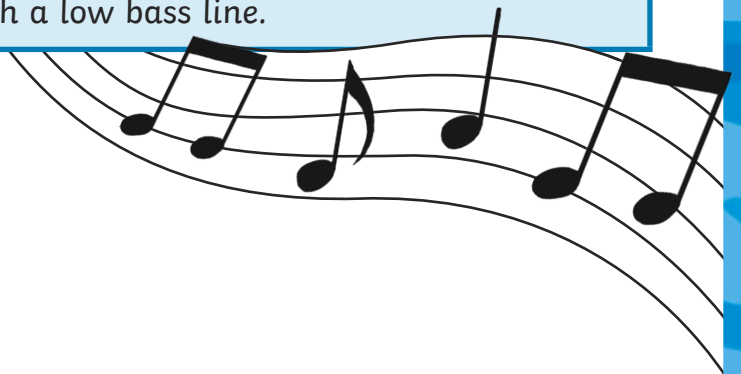
Stormzy, or Michael Omari, was born on 26<sup>th</sup> July 1993 in Croydon, London. He is a British rapper who makes **grime** music. Stormzy began his career by posting freestyling videos online; these rapidly gained him an enthusiastic fan base.

His music has fuelled grime's growth in popularity across the UK and worldwide. As a result, he has received an influx of prestigious awards.

In 2019, Stormzy provided funding for two Black students to attend a well-respected British university. He said that he chose to support the students to remind young Black people to take opportunities to follow their dreams.

## Glossary

<b>R &amp; B:</b>	A kind of pop music with a soulful style.
<b>civil rights:</b>	The right of all people to have freedom and equality.
<b>grime:</b>	Popular music with a low bass line.



# Questions

1. Draw **four** lines and complete the sentences.

Aretha's powerful voice  
was first admired...

stand up for what they  
believe in.

In 1993, Ella set up  
a foundation with the  
intention of...

when she began  
performing with her  
father as a child.

Bob Marley's songs  
encourage people to...

by posting freestyling  
videos online.

Stormzy began his  
by career...

using her fame to help  
people of all races,  
cultures and beliefs have  
better opportunities in life.

2. **Aretha was a civil rights activist.**

What does this tell you about Aretha Franklin?

- that she believed everyone deserved to be treated the same
- that she enjoyed reading about people
- that she didn't enjoy spending time with other people
- that she didn't agree with people having civil rights

3. Fill in the missing words.

She was the first \_\_\_\_\_ to perform this \_\_\_\_\_ of music to a wide audience around the world.

4. Look at the section about **Stormzy**.

Find and copy a word which means the same as **encouraged**.

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5. What was the name of Bob Marley's band?

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6. What do you think Aretha Franklin's song 'RESPECT' was about? Explain your reason.

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7. Look at the sections about **Bob Marley** and **Aretha Franklin**.  
Explain the similarities and differences between the two musicians.

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8. Discuss why Ella Fitzgerald is called the 'First Lady of Jazz'.

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9. Choose one of these individuals. Summarise in 30 words or fewer why they are thought to be an influential musician.

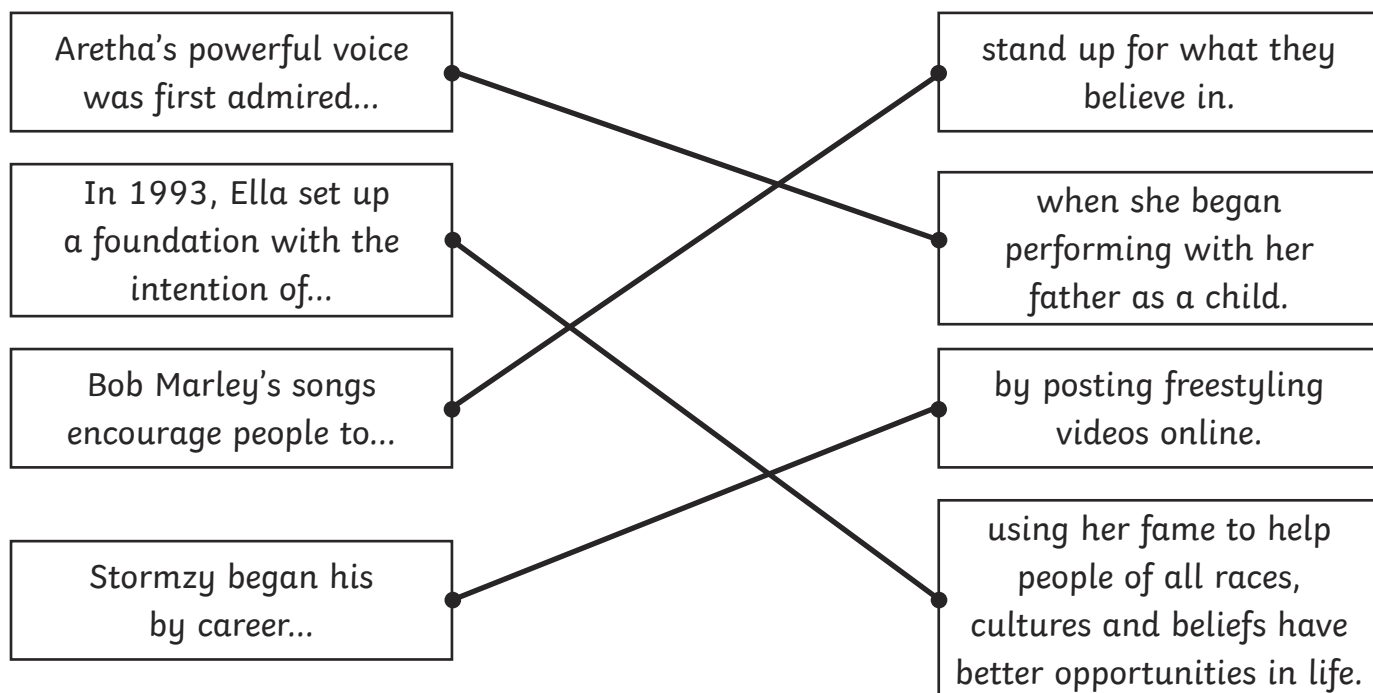
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# Answers

1. Draw **four** lines and complete the sentences.



2. **Aretha was a civil rights activist.**

What does this tell you about Aretha Franklin?

- that she believed everyone deserved to be treated the same**
- that she enjoyed reading about people
- that she didn't enjoy spending time with other people
- that she didn't agree with people having civil rights

3. Fill in the missing words.

She was the first **woman** to perform this **genre** of music to a wide audience around the world.

4. Look at the section about **Stormzy**.

Find and copy a word which means the same as **encouraged**.

**fuelled**

5. What was the name of Bob Marley's band?

**Bob Marley's band were called the Wailers.**

6. What do you think Aretha Franklin's song 'RESPECT' was about? Explain your reason.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Aretha's song 'RESPECT' was about treating everyone fairly and as equals because it became an important song for feminist and civil rights movements.**

7. Look at the sections about **Bob Marley** and **Aretha Franklin**.  
Explain the similarities and differences between the two musicians.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Bob Marley and Aretha Franklin were similar because they both used their music to spread messages about how they believed people should be treated. However, the genres of music they sang were different – Bob Marley sang reggae music and Aretha Franklin sang soul and R & B.**

8. Discuss why Ella Fitzgerald is called the 'First Lady of Jazz'.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Ella Fitzgerald is called the 'First Lady of Jazz' because she was the first woman to make jazz popular to a wide audience and had a lot of success.**

9. Choose one of these individuals. Summarise in 30 words or fewer why they are thought to be an influential musician.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Bob Marley is thought to be an influential musician because he encouraged people to stand up for what they believe in.**



# Influential Musicians

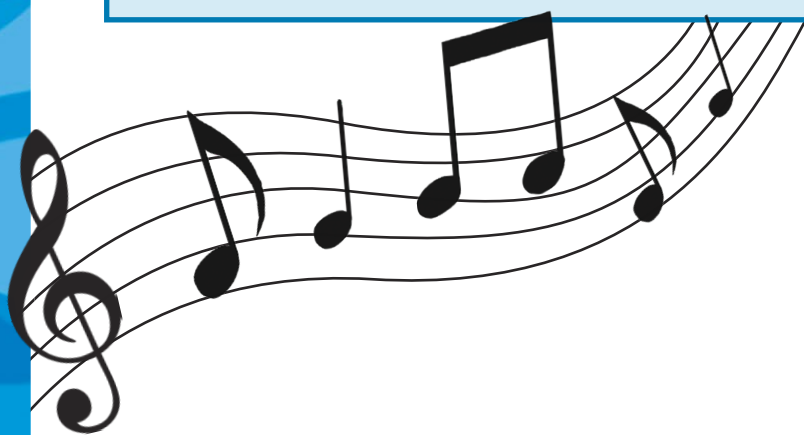
Occasionally, a musician comes along who doesn't just stay in the charts for a few weeks or months because of a catchy melody. Their music and the messages that they portray influences future generations. Below are the stories of four such musicians.

## Ella Fitzgerald

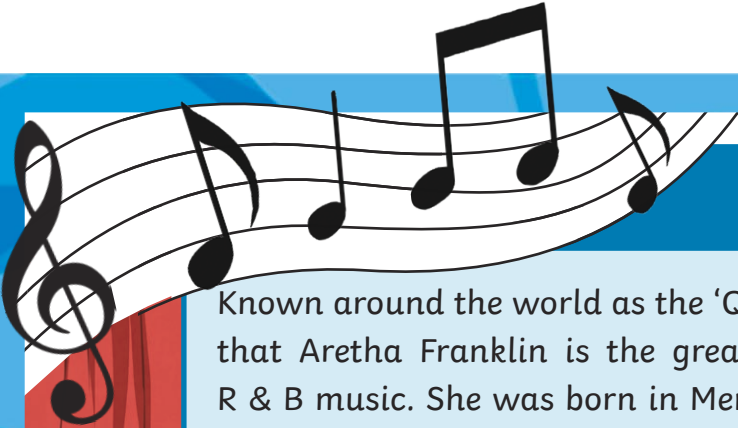
Widely acknowledged as an international legend with a career spanning an incredible 60 years, Ella Fitzgerald is one of the bestselling jazz singers in history.

Known as the 'First Lady of Jazz', she was born in Virginia, USA in 1917. She was the first woman to perform this type of music to a wide audience around the world. Ella gained respect and recognition from a diverse fan base who were captivated by her clear tone and wide vocal range: she was a particularly successful ballad singer. It wasn't always Ella's intention to sing; she wanted to dance but, at the age of 17, she panicked before going on stage at a contest and chose to sing instead. Amazingly (despite the sudden change), she won first prize.


Throughout her glittering career, she was awarded with 14 awards including one for lifetime achievement, becoming the first woman to achieve this prestigious accolade. In 1993, Ella set up a foundation with the intention of using her fame to help people of all races, cultures and beliefs (particularly young children and adults) to have better opportunities in life.



## Aretha Franklin




Known around the world as the 'Queen of Soul', many people believe that Aretha Franklin is the greatest soul singer in the history of R & B music. She was born in Memphis, USA in 1942.



Her talent became obvious at a young age when she taught herself to play the piano; her powerful voice was first acknowledged when she began performing in front of her father's congregation as a child. Releasing her single 'RESPECT' in 1967 catapulted Aretha to stardom; it became a powerful anthem and consequentially helped her to be recognised as a symbol for feminism and civil rights. She received her first two awards for this song. In 1987, Aretha was the first woman to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, recognising her successes in the music industry.

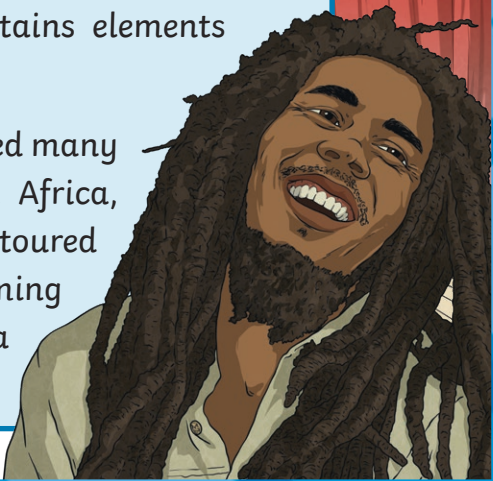
During her career, she won 20 awards including one for lifetime achievement. Aretha was a civil rights activist who used her fame and influence to raise awareness of important causes, such as improving healthcare and the environment.

## Bob Marley



Bob Marley is regarded as a cultural icon; many people believe that his music continues to have unparalleled influence on society today. Born Robert Nesta Marley on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1945 in Jamaica, he made reggae music, which originates from Jamaica and contains elements of calypso and R & B.

Along with his band, the Wailers, Bob Marley toured many parts of the world, including Europe, USA and Africa, delivering his messages through song. When they toured New Zealand, they were given a traditional welcoming ceremony by the indigenous Māori people. This is a mark of respect when greeting important visitors.



## Bob Marley

Bob Marley used his music to share his beliefs and to challenge opinions and inequality in societies across the world. Many people continue to be inspired by his lyrics. Songs, such as 'Get Up, Stand Up', encourage people to stand up for what they believe in while 'One Love' spreads the idea of love and unity among all people. Interestingly, Bob Marley did not win any awards until after he stopped making music. He finally received a lifetime achievement award in 2001.

## Stormzy

Stormzy, or Michael Omari, was born on 26<sup>th</sup> July 1993 in Croydon, London. He is a British rapper who makes grime music (a genre of popular music with a low bassline). Stormzy began his by career by posting freestyling videos online; these rapidly gained him an enthusiastic fan base.

His music has undoubtedly fuelled grime's growth in popularity across the UK and worldwide: his debut album was the first grime album to reach number one in the UK album chart. As a result, he has received several prestigious awards.

In 2019, Stormzy provided funding for two Black students to attend a well-respected British university. He said that he chose to support the students to remind young Black people to take opportunities and to follow their dreams.

# Questions

1. **Amazingly, despite the sudden change, she won first prize.**

What does this tell you about Ella Fitzgerald? Tick one.

- that she should have carried on pursuing a career as a dancer
- that she wasn't a very good dancer
- that she was a very talented singer
- that she wasn't a very talented singer

2. Draw **four** lines and complete the sentences.

Aretha was a civil rights activist who used her fame and influence to...

toured the world delivering his messages through song.

Ella Fitzgerald is widely acknowledged as an international legend...

remind young Black people to achieve great things.

Stormzy said that he chose to support the students to...

with a career spanning an incredible 60 years.

Along with his band, the Wailers, Bob Marley...

raise awareness of important causes.

3. Look at the section about **Bob Marley**.

Write down a phrase which means the same as **unrivalled impact**.

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4. When did Aretha Franklin's talent become obvious?

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5. Fill in the missing words.

In 1987, Aretha was the \_\_\_\_\_ woman to be \_\_\_\_\_ into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

6. Summarise in 25 words or fewer why Bob Marley is seen as a cultural icon.

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7. Compare the sections about Ella Fitzgerald and Stormzy.

Discuss the similarities between these musicians using evidence from the text.

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8. Ella Fitzgerald set up a foundation in 1993.

Discuss what you think this tells you about the singer.

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9. If Bob Marley were to write a song today, what do you think his message would be to the people listening? Explain your reason.

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10. Explain why the 'Queen of Soul' is thought to be an influential musician.

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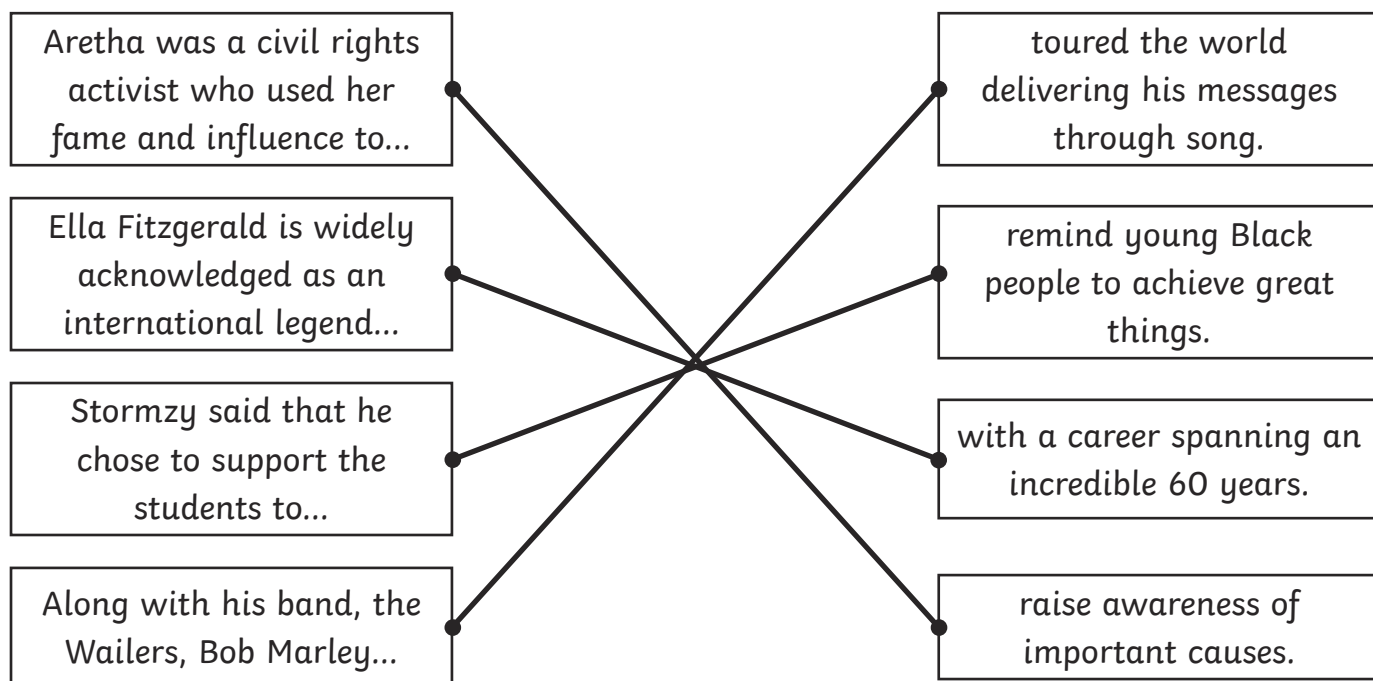
# Answers

## 1. Amazingly, despite the sudden change, she won first prize.

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- that she wasn't a very good dancer
- that she was a very talented singer**
- that she wasn't a very talented singer

## 2. Draw **four** lines and complete the sentences.



## 3. Look at the section about **Bob Marley**.

Write down a phrase which means the same as **unrivalled impact**.

**unparalleled influence**

## 4. When did Aretha Franklin's talent become obvious?

**Aretha Franklin's talent became obvious when she taught herself to play the piano as a child.**

## 5. Fill in the missing words.

In 1987, Aretha was the **first** woman to be **inducted** into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

6. Summarise in 25 words or fewer why Bob Marley is seen as a cultural icon.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Bob Marley is seen as a cultural icon because people from diverse cultures relate to his music and his messages of love and equality.**

7. Compare the sections about Ella Fitzgerald and Stormzy.

Discuss the similarities between these musicians using evidence from the text.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Ella Fitzgerald and Stormzy were both the first to achieve people to achieve success in their type of music. Ella was the first woman to perform jazz to wider audiences while Stormzy was the first grime musician to make it to number one in the album chart.**

8. Ella Fitzgerald set up a foundation in 1993.

Discuss what you think this tells you about the singer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the foundation that Ella Fitzgerald set up in 1993 shows that she wanted to use her fame and influence for good and to help others have a better future. I think this makes her a kind and generous person.**

9. If Bob Marley were to write a song today, what do you think his message would be to the people listening? Explain your reason.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: If Bob Marley were writing a song today, I think that he would write a song which encourages everyone to treat each other with respect. Movements today show that people still need encouragement to show love and kindness to one another.**

10. Explain why the 'Queen of Soul' is thought to be an influential musician.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Aretha Franklin was an influential musician because she used her music to send messages of empowerment and equality to her listeners. She became a powerful symbol to many people around the world.**