

Maria Eva Duarte de Perón

Maria Eva Duarte de Peron was born in 1919 and died in 1952. People know her as *Evita*, which means “Little Eva”. She was Argentina’s First Lady between 1946 and 1952 and became the Spiritual Leader of the Nation. She is one of the most popular Argentinian icons of the 20th Century.

Eva spent her childhood in a small town in the province of Buenos Aires. Her father abandoned the family when she was one, so her mother raised her and her siblings alone. Eva worked as a maid to help pay the bills. She loved drama and acting at school. The cinema fascinated her and she decided to become a famous actress.

Eva left her small village when she was 15, in search of the bright lights in the big city. She made her acting debut in 1935. In 1942 she had a breakthrough when she signed a five-year contract with Radio Belgrano. She became famous very soon.

In 1944, Eva met Juan Peron and they were married a year later. In 1946, Eva became Argentina’s First Lady. She used her radio fame to make powerful speeches to help Juan in his presidential election. She became immensely popular with the poor, who nicknamed her *Evita*. She died at the age of 33. Her rags-to-riches life was turned into musicals and movies, which made her famous worldwide.

A. Answer the following questions

B.

1. When was Eva born?

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2. Was she rich when she was born?

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3. What was her role between 1946 and 1952?

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4. Was she born in the City of Buenos Aires?

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5. What did her father do when she was one?

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