Name_____

Elvis Presley

Elvis Presley was born on January 8, 1935, in Mississippi. Elvis had a twin brother who was stillborn. Elvis eventually became one of the biggest names of all time in music and is often referred to as the king of rock 'n' roll.

Elvis grew up poor but was raised by parents who loved him. As a child, he attended church regularly, and the gospel music he heard there had a great influence on him. By the age of ten, he already owned his first guitar. Later, he would win a talent show at the high school he attended in Memphis, which continued to encourage his love for music. His dream of being a musician became his main goal, and he worked many odd jobs while trying to pursue his dream. He eventually cut his first record, and he was able to begin touring and recording his music. His first single came in 1954. By 1956, he was on his way to being a singing star and a movie star as he signed a contract with Paramount Pictures.

In 1957, he was drafted and served in Germany for a little over a year. It was in Germany that he would meet his future wife, Priscilla Beaulieu. They would eventually be married in 1967 and would have a daughter, Lisa Marie. Sadly, the marriage would not last.

On August 16, 1977, Elvis Presley passed away from heart failure. To this day, Elvis Presley has remained one of the biggest names in music history.

Text Questions

1. According to the text, what are two interests Elvis Presley had as an adult?
   a. acting in movies and singing
   b. writing and dancing
   c. gospel singing and winning talent shows
   d. cutting records and cooking
2. Which event had an early influence on Elvis Presley's musical career?
   a. listening to gospel music at church
   b. attending many different schools
   c. being drafted into the army
   d. meeting other famous musicians
3. Which events are listed in the correct sequential order?
   a. Elvis won a talent show and received a guitar as a gift.
   b. Elvis was drafted into the army and met Priscilla Beaulieu.
   c. Elvis made his first movie and then recorded his first record.
   d. Elvis's daughter was born, and Elvis recorded his first movie.
4. What was the author's purpose in writing this text?
   a. to entertain
   b. to persuade
   c. to inform
   d. to compare and contrast
5. Which is a synonym for the word *pursue* as it is used in the second paragraph?
   a. hide
   b. follow
   c. stalk
   d. remind

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