

Celia Cruz

Music, Family and a Big Dream

The early years
of a legend

La
Reina
de la
Salsa

Celia Cruz was born in nineteen twenty-five in Havana, Cuba. Her parents were not musicians. But music played an important role in her childhood. Her grandmother once said that Celia could sing before she could talk. Celia would often sing at school and community gatherings. Later, as a teenager Celia started competing in singing contests. She won many competitions.



1 Read and choose.

Read the questions. Choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

- 1 Where was Celia Cruz born?
A) New York B) Havana C) Miami D) Mexico City
- 2 What was her grandmother's special comment?
A) She could dance.
B) She could sing before she could talk.
C) She could play the piano.
D) She was a good student.
- 3 What did Celia do as a teenager?
A) She became a teacher.
B) She started competing in singing contests.
C) She moved to the United States.
D) She joined a band.



2 True or False?

Read the sentences. Write T (True) or F (False).

- 1 Celia Cruz's parents were musicians. _____
- 2 Music was not important in her childhood. _____
- 3 She could sing before she could talk. _____
- 4 She won many competitions as a teenager. _____
- 5 Celia started competing in singing contests when she was a child. _____

Dreams
have no age!

3 Find the words.

Look at the word bank and find the words in the paragraph.

born parents musicians childhood
grandmother teenager competitions

- 1 Celia was _____ in nineteen twenty-five in Havana, Cuba.
- 2 Her _____ were not musicians.
- 3 Music played an important role in her _____.
- 4 Her _____ once said that Celia could sing before she could talk.
- 5 Later, as a _____ Celia started competing in singing _____.

Small girl...
Big dream!

4 Put the events in order.

Number the sentences from 1 to 5.

- ☐ Celia Cruz was born in Havana.
- ☐ Her parents were not musicians.
- ☐ Her grandmother said she could sing before she could talk.
- ☐ She started competing in singing contests.
- ☐ She won many competitions.



5 Circle the correct option.

Choose the best answer.

- 1 Celia's father wanted her to be a / an teacher.
- 2 Her grandmother said that Celia could sing / play before she could talk.
- 3 Celia often sang at school / home and community gatherings.
- 4 She started competing in singing contests as a child / teenager.
- 5 Celia won many / a few competitions.

Music
changed
her life!

6 Answer the questions.

Write complete sentences.

- 1 Where was Celia Cruz born?

- 2 What role did music play in her childhood?

- 3 What did her grandmother say about her?

- 4 When did she start competing in singing contests?



La música
es vida

