Celia Cruz

Music, Culture and Dreams

Her voice inspired the world



La Reina de la Salsa

Her father wanted her to be a teacher. But Celia wanted a career in music. She later said that she was both a singer and a teacher. She said that her music taught the world about Cuban culture and the happiness of living life to the fullest.

Music is an important part of the cultural life of Cubans. During the nineteen thirties and forties in Havana, Celia heard many kinds of music. Famous music groups and singers would perform live on the radio. She could listen to dance music like the rumba, mambo and guaracha. These kinds of songs were influenced by the music of Africa and Spain. This Cuban music or "son" is defined by the beat of the drum and the call of the singer. It is music made for dancing.



Cuban Music = Life!

1 Complete the table.

Read the paragraph and complete the chart with the information.

Topic	Information	Examples / Details
What did her father want her to be?		
What did Celia want to be?		
What did she say about herself?		
What is an important part of the cultural life of Cubans?		
What dance music did Celia listen to?		
What influenced this Cuban music?		

Music connects people and cultures

2 Circle the correct option.

Read the paragraph again and choose the correct option.

1. What did her father want Celia to be?
   a) A dancer b) A teacher c) A doctor d) A singer
2. What did Celia want to be?
   a) A teacher b) A singer c) A dancer d) A doctor
3. What did she later say about herself?
   a) She was only a teacher. b) She was only a singer. c) She was both a singer and a teacher. d) She was a musician.
4. What was an important part of the cultural life of Cubans?
   a) Rock music b) Classical music c) Dance music d) Pop music
5. Which dance music did she listen to?
   a) Jazz b) Rumba, mambo and guaracha c) Country d) Reggae
6. What influenced this Cuban music?
   a) Africa and Spain b) The United States c) Mexico d) France

Different rhythms, same passion



LIVEWORKSHEETS