

Reading Comprehension



Robert "Bob" Nesta Marley is the greatest ever reggae singer. He spread reggae and his message of love and unity to a worldwide audience. His live performances were legendary for their passion and energy. Marley's album 'Exodus' was voted by 'Time' magazine as the best of the 20th Century. The BBC declared his song 'One Love' as the song of the millennium.

Marley was born in 1945 in a small village in Jamaica to a white father and black mother. The racist bullying he received as a child had an impact on his songwriting. He left school at the age of 14 to make music. He met members of his future band The Wailers at a jam session. It took several years before they became famous.

The Wailers' first album 'Catch a Fire' was released in 1973 and sold well. Another album followed a year later which included the song 'I Shot The Sheriff'. Eric Clapton's cover of the song in 1974 brought Marley a lot of global attention. In 1975, Marley released his breakthrough song 'No Woman, No Cry', still regarded as a classic today.

Marley left Jamaica for England in 1976 to record his 'Exodus' and 'Kaya' albums. He toured the world and performed to campaign against apartheid in South Africa and to celebrate Zimbabwe's independence. He died of cancer in 1981, aged 36. He was given a state funeral in Jamaica according to the Rastafari tradition. He continues to be an important influence on today's music.

I. Answer the following questions:

1. Who was Bob Marley?
2. When was Bob born?
3. Where was Bob from?
4. What was his cause of death?

I. Match the words from the article on the left with their synonyms on the right.

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. unity | a. famous |
| 2. legendary | b. well-known |
| 3. declared | c. influence |
| 4. impact | d. a number of |
| 5. several | e. harmony |
| 6. famous | f. announced |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 7. released | g. push |
| 8. global | h. brought out |
| 9. regarded | i. official |
| 10. campaign | j. thought of |
| 11. state | k. inspiration to |
| 12. influence | l. worldwide |

III. Match the following phrases from the article:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. his message | a. received as a child |
| 2. His live performances are | b. of global attention |
| 3. song of | c. before they became famous |
| 4. The racist bullying he | d. as a classic today |
| 5. It took several years | e. influence on today's music |
| 6. 'Catch a Fire' was released in 1973 | f. of love and unity |
| 7. brought Marley a lot | g. funeral |
| 8. still regarded | h. legendary |
| 9. He was given a state | i. and sold well |
| 10. He continues to be an important | j. the millennium |

ANSWERS:

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- | | | | |
|----|-----------|----|-------------|
| 1. | unity | a. | harmony |
| 2. | legendary | b. | famous |
| 3. | declared | c. | announced |
| 4. | impact | d. | influence |
| 5. | several | e. | a number of |
| 6. | famous | f. | well-known |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------|----|----------------|
| 7. | released | g. | brought out |
| 8. | global | h. | worldwide |
| 9. | regarded | i. | thought of |
| 10. | campaign | j. | push |
| 11. | state | k. | official |
| 12. | influence | l. | inspiration to |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|----|----------------------------|
| 1. | his message | a. | of love and unity |
| 2. | His live performances were | b. | legendary |
| 3. | song of | c. | the millennium |
| 4. | The racist bullying he | d. | received as a child |
| 5. | It took several years | e. | before they became famous |
| 6. | 'Catch a Fire' was released in 1973 | f. | and sold well |
| 7. | brought Marley a lot | g. | of global attention |
| 8. | still regarded | h. | as a classic today |
| 9. | He was given a state | i. | funeral |
| 10. | He continues to be an important | j. | influence on today's music |