Reading Comprehension Contest – Fifth Grade

Write your name.

_____

Read the passage and answer the questions below.

Out of Great Pain, Great Music

It is hard to understand how people in the United States ever put

up with slavery, since Americans value freedom so highly. However, for some 250 years, African Americans were held as slaves. Every child of a slave, from infant to teenager, also became the owner's property. Slaves performed many jobs, from cook to field hand to barber. Slavery caused great sorrow and pain, but it also gave rise to some of the world's most moving music. Spirituals are religious folk songs that began among slaves. They would sing these songs to help raise their spirits. Church gave them a place to express their hope for a better life to come. The choir made powerful music about that hope. Slavery ended for African Americans some 150 years ago. But spirituals remain an important part of life for many African Americans today. People of many races and backgrounds have come to appreciate spirituals. Many people also love blues music, which also originated from the African American experience of slavery. Many African American singers have released recordings of blues music and spirituals that have sold millions of copies all around the world.

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Vocabulary –Match the correct answer.

Pain

Church

Slaves-slavery

African American

Blues

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Choose the correct option:

1. People in USA tolerate _____.

a)Slavery **b**) Music **c**) freedom

2. African American people were slaves for _____.

a) more than 250 year **b**) less than 250 years

3. All family belonged to an owner, ___ the infants, and teenagers, also became slaves.

a)but **b**) so **c**) or

4. African American people performed _____, a type of songs performed in a church.

a) Ballads **b**)Rock **c**) Spirituals

5. _____ is a type or music that also was originated during the African American slavery experience.

a)Ballads **b**)Blues **c**)Spirituals

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