A Misty Copeland Biography

Vocabulary. **Write** the word with the correct definition.

siblings	struggle	drill	soloist
corps de ballet	theatre	encourage	memoir

1. the members of a ballet company who dance together as a group

_____

2. a brother or sister

_____

3. a historical account or biography

_____

4. intensive instruction or training in something

_____

5. a singer or other musician who performs a solo

_____

6. have difficulty handling or coping with

_____

7. give support, confidence, or hope to (someone)

_____

8. a building or outdoor area where dramatic performances are given

_____



LIVEWORKSHEETS

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Misty Copeland is a dancer. She is a ballerina. She worked hard to become the first African American woman to become a principal ballerina at the American Ballet Theatre in New York City.

She was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on September 10th, 1982, but she grew up in San Pedro, California. She has five siblings, two sisters and three brothers. Her family struggled to have enough money and had to move to many different homes. Sometimes Misty didn't know if there would be food for dinner.

When she was a child, Misty loved to dance, and was always prepared when she got to school. When she was 13 years old, she tried out for her school drill team. After her audition, she was offered the team captain role! Her drill teacher suggested that she try a ballet class because she was such a good dancer. Most ballet dancers begin their training as young children, yet Misty's teachers knew that she had a natural talent and encouraged her to train as a dancer. She studied at the San Francisco Ballet School and the American Ballet Theatre.

In 2001, Misty joined the American Ballet Theatre as a member of the corps de ballet. In 2007, she became the second African American female soloist in the company. She kept dancing, and in 2015, Misty was the first African American woman to be promoted to principal dancer in the company's 75-year history.

Misty is a talented dancer and she is also a writer. In 2014 she wrote a memoir about her life called Life in Motion and a picture book titled Firebird. She is passionate about helping others and has spent time as mentor, volunteer, and in 2014 was appointed by President Obama to the President's Council on Fitness, Sports, and Nutrition.

Now Misty Copeland lives in New York City. She continues to take classes and dances with the American Ballet Theater. All of her hard work shows that anyone can be a ballerina.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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Comprehension. **Answer** the questions about the text.

1. What are some things Misty Copeland liked to do?

2. Why is Misty Copeland famous?

3. What is a challenge Misty Copeland had in her life?

4. Where did Misty Copeland study dancing?

5. Where did Misty Copeland live in the United States?



6. Would you like to try ballet? Why?

LIVEWORKSHEETS