

Influential Musicians

Below are the stories of four talented musicians, whose music continues to inspire many people today.

Ella Fitzgerald

Ella Fitzgerald was born in Virginia, USA in 1917. Her career lasted for over 60 years. She was called the 'First Lady of Jazz' and people liked her fantastic voice. Ella wanted to be a dancer when she was a child. When she was 17 years old, she panicked just as she was about to dance on stage at a contest. She chose to sing instead. She won first prize. During her career, she won 14 awards. In 1966, she became the first woman to receive a lifetime achievement award from a famous recording academy.

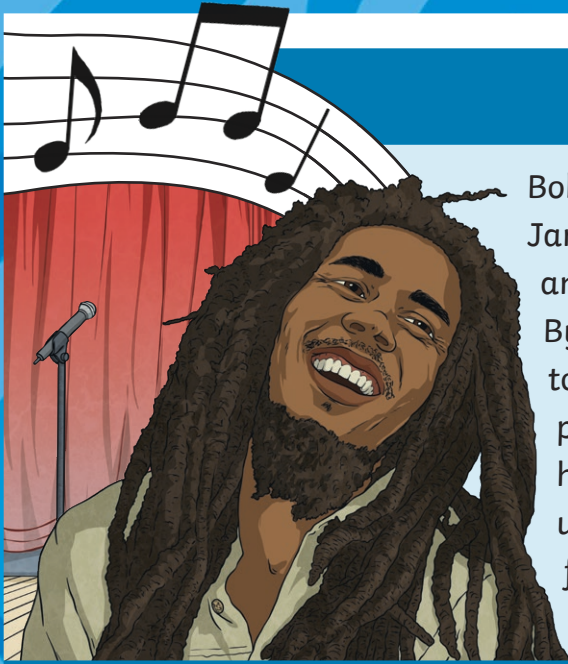


Aretha Franklin

Aretha Franklin was born in Tennessee, USA in 1942. Many people think that Aretha is the greatest soul singer in the history of **R & B** music. She first began performing as a young child when she would play the piano and sing with her father. Over her impressive career, she won 20 awards, including one for lifetime achievement. Aretha used her fame to raise awareness of causes that were important to her, such as healthcare and the environment.



Bob Marley

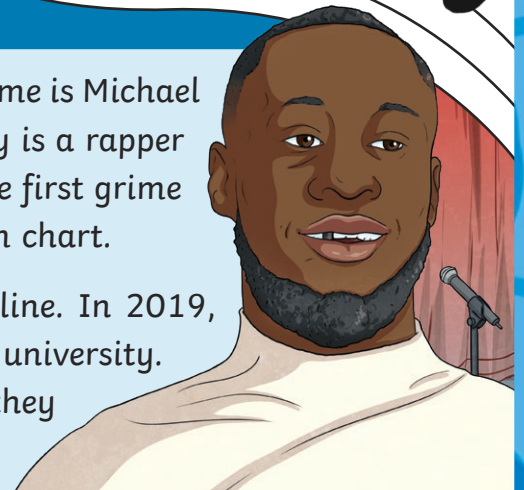


Bob Marley was born on 6th February 1945 in Jamaica. He made **reggae** music to tell stories and to spread messages of love around the world. By performing his music, he encouraged people to stand up for what they believed in. Many people today are inspired by the words that he wrote. Bob Marley did not win any awards until a long time after his music was made. He finally received a lifetime achievement award in 2001.

Stormzy

Stormzy was born on 26th July 1993. His real name is Michael Omari and he is from Croydon, London. Stormzy is a rapper who makes **grime** music. His first album was the first grime album to reach number one in the British album chart.

Stormzy began his career by posting videos online. In 2019, he helped two Black students to afford to attend university. He wanted to remind young Black people that they could have the future that they wanted.



Glossary

R & B:	Popular music with a soulful style.
grime:	Popular music with a low bass line.
reggae:	Popular music that includes elements of calypso and rhythm and blues.

Questions

1. Which musician was born in Jamaica? Tick one.

- ☐ Aretha Franklin
- ☐ Ella Fitzgerald
- ☐ Bob Marley
- ☐ Stormzy

2. What is Stormzy's real name? Tick one.

- ☐ Michael Omari
- ☐ Michael Fitzgerald
- ☐ Robert Omari
- ☐ Michael Franklin

3. Who did Aretha Franklin sing with when she was a child? Tick one.

- ☐ her mother
- ☐ Ella Fitzgerald
- ☐ Bob Marley
- ☐ her father

4. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they occur in the text.

- ☐ Aretha Franklin first began performing as a young child.
- ☐ Many people today are inspired by the words that he wrote.
- ☐ Ella wanted to be a dancer when she was a child.
- ☐ He began his career by posting videos online.

5. Fill in the missing words.

Ella Fitzgerald was born in _____, USA in _____.

6. Look at the section about Ella Fitzgerald. Find and copy a word which means the same as **wonderful**.

7. Explain why many people are inspired by Bob Marley's songs.

Answers

1. Which musician was born in Jamaica? Tick one.

- ☐ Aretha Franklin
- ☐ Ella Fitzgerald
- ☒ **Bob Marley**
- ☐ Stormzy

2. What is Stormzy's real name? Tick one.

- ☒ **Michael Omari**
- ☐ Michael Fitzgerald
- ☐ Robert Omari
- ☐ Michael Franklin

3. Who did Aretha Franklin sing with when she was a child? Tick one.

- ☐ her mother
- ☐ Ella Fitzgerald
- ☐ Bob Marley
- ☒ **her father**

4. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they occur in the text.

- 2** Aretha Franklin first began performing as a young child.
- 3** Many people today are inspired by the words that he wrote.
- 1** Ella wanted to be a dancer when she was a child.
- 4** He began his career by posting videos online.

5. Fill in the missing words.

Ella Fitzgerald was born in **Virginia**, USA in **1917**.

6. Look at the section about Ella Fitzgerald. Find and copy a word which means the same as **wonderful**.

fantastic

7. Explain why many people are inspired by Bob Marley's songs.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Many people are inspired by Bob Marley's songs because he wrote about love. He wanted people to stand up for things that were important to them.

Influential Musicians

Below are the stories of four talented musicians, whose inspirational music continues to influence many people today.

Ella Fitzgerald

Ella Fitzgerald was born in Virginia, USA in 1917. She is a musical legend who became known as the 'First Lady of Jazz'. Her career lasted for over 60 years and people loved to hear her beautiful voice. As a child, she wanted to be a dancer. When she was 17 years old, she panicked just as she was about to dance on stage at a contest and chose to sing instead, winning first prize. During her career, she was awarded with 14 awards, including one for lifetime achievement. She was the first woman to achieve this highly respected award.

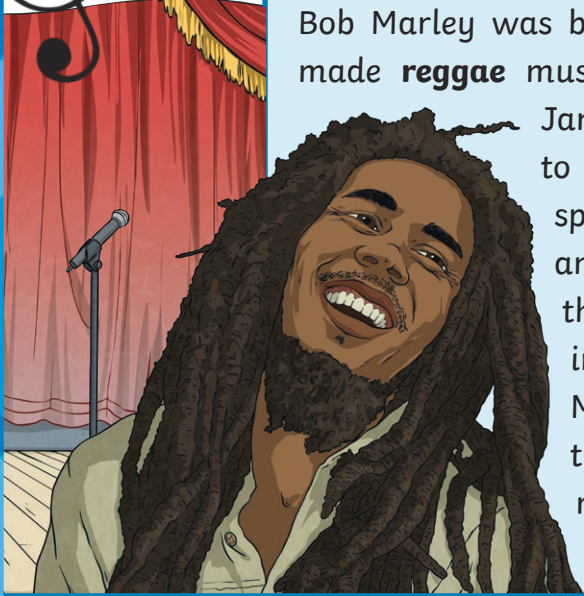


Aretha Franklin

Aretha Franklin was born in Tennessee, USA in 1942. Many people think that she is the greatest soul singer in the history of **R & B** music. Aretha first began performing as a young child when she played the piano and sang with her father. She was the first woman to be asked to join the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Throughout her incredible career, she won 20 awards, including one for lifetime achievement. Aretha used her fame to raise awareness of many causes that were important to her, including healthcare and the environment.



Bob Marley



Bob Marley was born on 6th February 1945 in Jamaica. He made **reggae** music. This type of music was developed in Jamaica. He used his music to tell stories and to challenge opinions across the world. He spread the message of love among all people and encouraged people to stand up for what they believed in. Many people today are inspired by his songs. Interestingly, Bob Marley did not win any awards until a long time after his music was made. He finally received a lifetime achievement award in 2001.

Stormzy

Stormzy was born on 26th July 1993 in Croydon, London and his real name is Michael Omari. Stormzy is a rapper who makes **grime** music. His first album was the first grime album to reach number one in the British album chart.

Stormzy began his career by posting videos online. In 2019, he provided funding for two Black students to attend a British university. He said that he chose to support the students to remind young Black people that they had the opportunity to study at some of the best universities in the country.



Glossary

R & B:	A kind of pop music with a soulful style.
grime:	Popular music with a low bass line.
reggae:	Popular music that includes elements of calypso and rhythm and blues.

Questions

1. What type of music did Ella Fitzgerald perform? Tick one.

- ☐ R & B
- ☐ reggae
- ☐ grime
- ☐ jazz

2. Bob Marley encouraged people to stand up for what they believed in. What do you think this tells you about him? Tick one.

- ☐ that he was brave
- ☐ that he was a talented musician
- ☐ that he enjoyed performing
- ☐ that he didn't enjoy travelling

3. Tick one word which means the same as **opportunity**.

- ☐ support
- ☐ chance
- ☐ recognition
- ☐ ability

4. Draw **four** lines and complete the sentences.

He spread the message of
love among all people...

She was the first
woman to...

Over her impressive
career...

Stormzy is a rapper...

who makes grime music.

she has won 20 awards
including one for lifetime
achievement.

and encouraged people to
stand up for what they
believed in.

achieve this highly
respected award.

5. How did Stormzy start his career?

6. Find and copy a sentence which shows that Bob Marley influences many people.

7. Do you think that it was a good thing that Ella Fitzgerald panicked when she was due to go on stage as a child? Explain your reason.

8. Summarise in 25 words or fewer why Stormzy is influential.

Answers

1. What type of music did Ella Fitzgerald perform? Tick one.

- ☐ R & B
- ☐ reggae
- ☐ grime
- ☒ **jazz**

2. Bob Marley encouraged people to stand up for what they believed in. What do you think this tells you about him? Tick one.

- ☒ **that he was brave**
- ☐ that he was a talented musician
- ☐ that he enjoyed performing
- ☐ that he didn't enjoy travelling

3. Tick one word which means the same as **opportunity**.

- ☐ support
- ☒ **chance**
- ☐ recognition
- ☐ ability

4. Draw **four** lines and complete the sentences.

He spread the message of love among all people...		who makes grime music.
She was the first woman to...		she has won 20 awards including one for lifetime achievement.
Over her impressive career...		and encouraged people to stand up for what they believed in.
Stormzy is a rapper...		achieve this highly respected award.

5. How did Stormzy start his career?

Stormzy started his career by posting videos online.

6. Find and copy a sentence which shows that Bob Marley influences many people.

Many people today are inspired by his songs.

7. Do you think that it was a good thing that Ella Fitzgerald panicked when she was due to go on stage as a child? Explain your reason.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think it was a good thing that Ella Fitzgerald panicked before she went on stage because it meant that she sang. Ella became famous for her singing not her dancing.

8. Summarise in 25 words or fewer why Stormzy is influential.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Stormzy is influential because he has successfully made grime music more popular. He also influences other people to follow their dreams.

Influential Musicians

Below are the stories of four talented musicians, whose inspirational music continues to influence many people today.

Ella Fitzgerald

One of the bestselling jazz singers in history, Ella Fitzgerald was born in Virginia, USA in 1917. She became known as the 'First Lady of Jazz' because she was the first woman to perform this type of music to a wide audience around the world. Her career lasted for over 60 years and she was known for her beautiful singing voice and ability to improvise with the music. As a child, she wanted to be a dancer but she panicked when she was due to go on stage at a contest and chose to sing instead. Amazingly, despite the sudden change, she won first prize. Throughout her career, she was awarded with 14 awards, including one for lifetime achievement. She was the first woman to achieve this highly respected award.

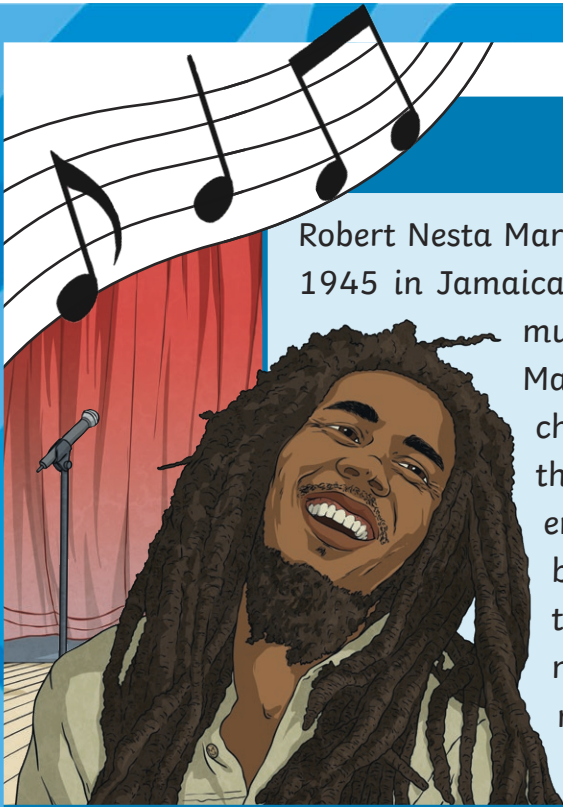


Aretha Franklin

Aretha Franklin was born in Tennessee, USA in 1942. Many people claim that Aretha is the greatest soul singer in the history of **R & B** music. She is known around the world as the 'Queen of Soul'. Aretha Franklin first began performing as a child. Her talent became obvious at a young age when she taught herself to play the piano. Aretha was the first woman to be asked to join the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame to recognise her successes in the music industry. She won 20 awards, including one for lifetime achievement. Aretha used her fame and influence to raise awareness of important causes, such as improving healthcare and the environment.



Bob Marley



Robert Nesta Marley, known as Bob, was born on 6th February 1945 in Jamaica. He made **reggae** music, which is a type of music developed in Jamaica in the 1960s. Bob Marley used his music to tell stories and to challenge opinions across the world. He spread the message of love and unity among all people, encouraging people to stand up for what they believed in. Many people today are inspired by the lyrics in his songs. Interestingly, Bob did not win any awards until a long time after his music was made. He finally received a lifetime achievement award in 2001.

Stormzy

Stormzy, or Michael Omari, was born on 26th July 1993 in Croydon, London. He is a British rapper who makes **grime** music. His debut album was the first grime album to make it to number one in the British album chart. In 2018, he also won British album of the year at an awards ceremony.

Stormzy began his by career posting videos online. In 2019, Stormzy provided funding for two Black students to attend a prestigious British university. He said that he chose to support the students to remind young Black people that the opportunity to study at some of the best universities in the country was available to them and that they too could achieve their dreams.



R & B: Popular music with a soulful style.

grime: Popular music with a low bass line.

reggae: Popular music that includes elements of calypso and rhythm and blues.

Glossary

Questions

1. Draw **four** lines and complete the sentences.

Interestingly, Bob Marley
did not win any awards...

Many people claim that
Aretha...

In 2019, Stormzy
provided funding for...

Amazingly, despite the
sudden change,...

she won first prize.

two Black students to
attend a prestigious
British university.

until a long time after his
music was made.

is the greatest soul
singer in the history of
R & B music.

2. **He spread the message of love among all people.**

What do you think this tells you about Bob Marley? Tick **two**.

- ☐ that he liked making music so that he could travel
- ☐ that he liked spreading messages to make money
- ☐ that he was a kind person
- ☐ that he encouraged people to treat each other well

3. What is Aretha Franklin known around the world as?

4. Look at the section about Stormzy.

Find and copy a word which means the same as **well thought of**.

5. **One of the bestselling jazz singers in history...**

What does the word **bestselling** tell us about Ella Fitzgerald?

6. Who do you think that Stormzy might help next? Explain your reason.

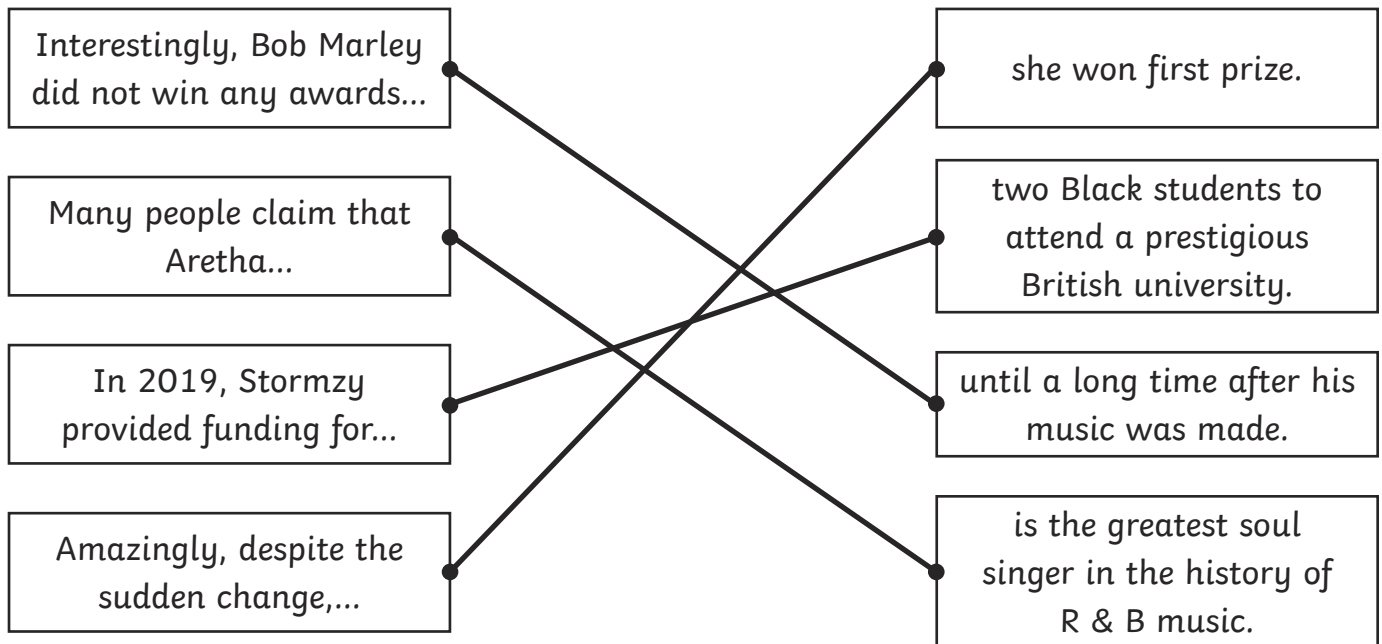
7. Compare the stories of Aretha Franklin and Ella Fitzgerald.

What are the similarities and differences?

8. Choose one of the four musicians in the text and explain why they continue to inspire people today.

Answers

1. Draw **four** lines and complete the sentences.



2. **He spread the message of love among all people.**

What do you think this tells you about Bob Marley? Tick **two**.

- ☐ that he liked making music so that he could travel
- ☐ that he liked spreading messages to make money
- ☒ **that he was a kind person**
- ☒ **that he encouraged people to treat each other well**

3. What is Aretha Franklin known around the world as?

Aretha Franklin is known around the world as the 'Queen of Soul'.

4. Look at the section about Stormzy.

Find and copy a word which means the same as **well thought of**.

prestigious

5. **One of the bestselling jazz singers in history...**

What does the word **bestselling** tell us about Ella Fitzgerald?

The word bestselling tells us that Ella sold more recordings than other jazz musicians.

6. Who do you think that Stormzy might help next? Explain your reason.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Stormzy might support Black children who want to go to music and drama school because he wants to encourage young Black people to achieve great things.

7. Compare the stories of Aretha Franklin and Ella Fitzgerald.
What are the similarities and differences?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Aretha Franklin and Ella Fitzgerald were both very successful and had careers that lasted for many years. They won many awards and were known worldwide. However, Aretha Franklin was known as the 'Queen of Soul' while Ella Fitzgerald was a bestselling jazz singer.

8. Choose one of the four musicians in the text and explain why they continue to inspire people today.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Ella Fitzgerald is an inspiration because she is one of the most successful jazz singers in history and the first woman to perform jazz to a large audience. She continued to perform for many years and was able to improvise with music, winning many awards for her contributions to the music industry.