

# Ariana Grande



## Early Life

As a child, Ariana loved to sing and perform. When she wasn't attending Pine Crest School, Ariana spent her time at a children's theatre group.



She played the lead character Annie in her first ever performance and went on to star in shows such as 'The Wizard of Oz' and 'Beauty and the Beast'.



At the age of ten, Ariana helped to create a children's singing group called **Kids Who Care**.



The group performed at charity events and raised over half a million dollars for good causes in 2007 alone.

Ariana Grande-Butera was born in Boca Raton, Florida, on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 1993. Her mother, Joan, ran a successful telephone and alarm company and her father, Edward, owned a graphic design company. Ariana's parents and her older brother, Frankie, had moved from New York to Florida just before she was born.

## Rise to Fame

Many people enjoyed listening to Ariana sing. At the age of eight years old, Ariana was already performing on cruise ships and with popular **orchestras** all around Florida.

It was at this age that she first appeared on national television singing the USA's national anthem, 'The Star-Spangled Banner', at a Florida Panthers ice hockey match.

In 2008, when she was just thirteen years old, Ariana first appeared on **Broadway**, starring as a cheerleader called Charlotte in the musical '13'. It wasn't long until Ariana became serious about creating her own music. She flew across the country to Los Angeles and met with her managers. She told them that she wanted to make her own **R&B** album.

In 2009, Ariana got the role of Cat Valentine in the popular TV show 'Victorious'. The show was a hit with almost six million viewers and Ariana quickly became famous around the world.

Although she loved acting and her role on the show, Ariana knew that music was more important and again set her sights on becoming a professional musician.

## Musical Success



Ariana released her first studio album, 'Yours Truly', on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2013. It had taken her three years to record and she wrote many of the songs on the album herself.

The album was an instant success, selling 138,000 copies in its first week and going straight to number one on the charts in the USA.

Straight away, Ariana began to record her second album, 'My Everything'.

When it was released on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2014, it sold 169,000 copies in its first week and rocketed to number one, just as 'Yours Truly' had the year before.

Ariana's third studio album, 'Dangerous Woman', was released on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2016 and entered the charts at number two. She then went on to release two albums ('Sweetener' and 'Thank U, Next') within six months of each other.

Ariana's sixth studio album, 'Positions', was released in 2020 and entered the top three in 19 countries.

## Awards and Nominations



Ariana's talent for performing, both musically and on screen, is appreciated around the world. Ariana's gifts were immediately recognised upon the release of her first album, 'Yours Truly', in 2013.

That year, Ariana won the New Artist of the Year honour at the American Music Awards, as well as being named Favourite TV Actress at the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards. She earned this title for her role as Cat Valentine in the show 'Sam & Cat', a spin-off series based on the successful show 'Victorious' which had ended that year.

Her awards reinforce that she is one of the most successful musicians in **show business** today.

## Glossary

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Broadway:</b>      | A street of professional theatres in New York.     |
| <b>orchestra:</b>     | A group of musicians playing instruments together. |
| <b>R&amp;B:</b>       | Short for 'rhythm and blues'. A type of music.     |
| <b>show business:</b> | The theatre, film, TV and pop music industry.      |



Ariana's recognition continued to grow, earning her many sought-after and respected awards, such as:

12 MTV Music Awards and a Grammy.  
10 Teen Choice Awards,  
6 Japan Gold Disc Awards,

# Questions

1. **'...earning her many sought-after awards.'** What does sought-after mean? Tick one.

- unpleasant  
 desired  
 weighty  
 impossible

2. Match the name of the album to the year it was released.

'Positions'

2016

'Dangerous Woman'

2020

'Yours Truly'

2013

3. Which two awards did Ariana win in 2013?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

4. According to the text, which of Ariana's albums was released most recently?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Find and copy a word which shows that the orchestras Ariana performed with were well-known.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. According to the text, has Ariana Grande had a successful career to date? Explain your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Why do you think that Ariana has been nominated for so many awards?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What do you think that Ariana will do next in her career? Explain your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

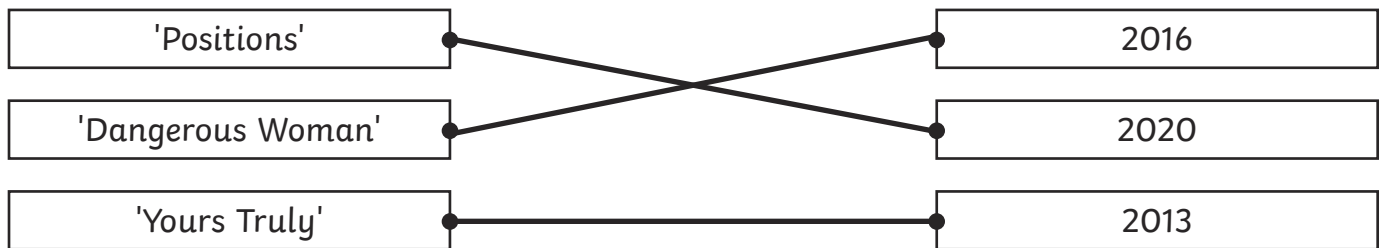
\_\_\_\_\_

# Answers

1. '...earning her many sought-after awards.' What does sought-after mean? Tick one.

- unpleasant  
 **desired**  
 weighty  
 impossible

2. Match the name of the album to the year it was released.



3. Which two awards did Ariana win in 2013?

**Accept the following two answers only:**

- **New Artist of the Year (at the American Music Awards)**
- **Favourite TV Actress (at the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards)**

4. According to the text, which of Ariana's albums was released most recently?

**Her sixth studio album, Positions, was released in 2020.**

5. Find and copy a word which shows that the orchestras Ariana performed with were well-known.

**popular**

6. According to the text, has Ariana Grande had a successful career to date? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Yes, I think Ariana has had a successful career to date because she has sold many copies of her albums and has won a lot of awards for her music and acting.**

7. Why do you think that Ariana has been nominated for so many awards?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Ariana has been nominated for so many awards because she is good at what she does and many people like her music.**

8. What do you think that Ariana will do next in her career? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Ariana will release another album soon and maybe hold some concerts. She may also decide to return to acting and get another role on TV.**

# Ariana Grande



Ariana Grande-Butera was born in Boca Raton, Florida, on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 1993.

## Rise to Fame



Ariana began her career as a professional entertainer at an early age. At eight years old, Ariana was already performing in the karaoke lounges aboard cruise ships and with popular orchestras all around Florida.

## Early Life



Her mother, Joan Grande, ran a successful telephone and alarm systems company and her father, Edward Butera, owned a graphic design firm. Ariana's parents, alongside her older brother, Frankie, had relocated from New York to Florida just before her birth.



As a child, Ariana had a passion for performance. When she wasn't attending Pine Crest School, Ariana spent her time at a children's theatre group.



She played the lead character Annie in her her first ever performance and went on to star in shows such as 'The Wizard of Oz' and 'Beauty and the Beast'.

**It was at this age that she first appeared on national television singing the USA's national anthem, 'The Star-Spangled Banner', at a Florida Panthers ice hockey match.**

In 2008, when she was just thirteen years old, Ariana first appeared on Broadway, starring as the supporting role of cheerleader Charlotte in the musical '13'. Upon joining the cast, Ariana left North Broward Preparatory School but continued to be sent work from school to complete with her tutors.

In a continuation to her acting career, Ariana got the role of Cat Valentine in the popular Nickelodeon show 'Victorious' in 2009. The show was a hit with almost 6 million viewers and Ariana quickly became famous around the world.

Although she loved acting and her role on the show, Ariana knew that music was more important and again set her sights on becoming a professional musician. She flew across the country to Los Angeles to meet with her managers and told them that she wanted to make her own R&B album.

## Musical Success



Ariana released her first studio album, 'Yours Truly', to the global market on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2013 after over three years of work.

She had written many of the songs on the album herself. The album was an instant success, selling 138,000 copies in its first week and going straight to number one on the charts in the USA.

Ariana immediately began work on her second studio album, 'My Everything'. When it was released on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2014, it sold 169,000 copies in its first week and rocketed to number one, just as 'Yours Truly' had the year before.

In early 2015, Ariana performed a series of shows in America, Europe and Asia as part of The Honeymoon Tour, with many extra dates being added midway through the run due to the show's popularity.

Ariana's third studio album, 'Dangerous Woman', was released on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2016 and entered the charts at number two. She then went on to release two albums in 2018 and 2019 ('Sweetener' and 'Thank U, Next') within six months of each other.

The album 'Sweetener' earned Ariana her first prestigious Grammy Award nomination. Ariana's sixth studio album, 'Positions', was released in 2020 and entered the top three in 19 countries.

## Charitable Contributions

Ariana's work helping others began at an early age. At the age of ten, Ariana helped to develop a children's singing group called Kids Who Care.

The group performed at charity events and raised over half a million dollars for good causes in 2007 alone. She has continued to use her fame to promote and raise funds for charitable causes close to her heart. She created a range of cosmetics, donating 100% of the proceeds to charity.

Unfortunately, at the end of a performance during Ariana's Dangerous Woman Tour, an explosion occurred which took the lives of 22 people and left many others injured. Ariana immediately organised a concert, named 'One Love Manchester'.

She performed at the concert alongside other musicians, such as Justin Bieber and Katy Perry, and over £15 million was raised to help the victims and their families.



In 2020, Ariana released a duet with Justin Bieber entitled 'Stuck with U'.

The proceeds from the sale of the single went to a charity supporting the children of key workers.



# Questions

1. Which one of these did Ariana do at the youngest age? Tick one.

- release the album 'Yours Truly'
- perform aboard a cruise ship
- star as Charlotte in the musical '13'
- develop Kids Who Care

2. Number the following statements from 1-5 to show the order they happened.

The first one has been done for you.

- Ariana performed The Honeymoon Tour.
- The album 'Dangerous Woman' was released.
- 1 Ariana began writing the album 'Yours Truly'.
- The album 'Thank U, Next' was released.
- Ariana performed the Dangerous Woman Tour.

3. What was the name of the benefit concert organised by Ariana?

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4. Fill in the missing words.

Ariana performed a series of shows in America, Europe and Asia as part of The Honeymoon Tour, with many extra \_\_\_\_\_ being added midway through the run due to the show's \_\_\_\_\_ .

5. Find and copy a phrase from the text which shows that 'Yours Truly' quickly did well.

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6. **'It sold 169,000 copies in its first week and rocketed to number one.'**

Why do you think that the author used the word 'rocketed' in this sentence?

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7. Why do you think that Ariana is so well-liked across the world?

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8. How is Ariana Grande similar to another celebrity you know?

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Do you think that Ariana will still be releasing music five years from now?  
Explain your answer.

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# Answers

1. Which one of these did Ariana do at the youngest age? Tick one.

- release the album 'Yours Truly'  
 **perform aboard a cruise ship**  
 star as Charlotte in the musical '13'  
 develop Kids Who Care

2. Number the following statements from 1-5 to show the order they happened.

The first one has been done for you.

- Ariana performed The Honeymoon Tour.  
 The album 'Dangerous Woman' was released.  
 Ariana began writing the album 'Yours Truly'.  
 The album 'Thank U, Next' was released.  
 Ariana performed the Dangerous Woman Tour.

3. What was the name of the benefit concert organised by Ariana?

**'One Love Manchester'**

4. Fill in the missing words.

Ariana performed a series of shows in America, Europe and Asia as part of The Honeymoon Tour, with many extra **dates** being added midway through the run due to the show's **popularity**.

5. Find and copy a phrase from the text which shows that 'Yours Truly' quickly did well

**Accept either of the following phrases:**

- **'was an instant success'**
- **'straight to number one'**

6. **'It sold 169,000 copies in its first week and rocketed to number one.'**

Why do you think that the author used the word 'rocketed' in this sentence?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the word was used to emphasise the speed at which the album reached number one as a rocket travels quickly.**

7. Why do you think that Ariana is so well-liked across the world?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Ariana is well-liked across the world because she does lots of charitable things which people are grateful for and her music is really enjoyable.**

8. How is Ariana Grande similar to another celebrity you know?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Ariana Grande is similar to Taylor Swift because they are both very popular American female solo singers who have released lots of albums.**

9. Do you think that Ariana will still be releasing music five years from now?

Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think she will be releasing music in five years but not as much as she does now. She may have made enough money and want a little break from touring and recording.**

# Ariana Grande



## Early Life

Ariana's parents, alongside her older brother Frankie, had relocated from New York to Florida shortly before her birth. Ariana's name was inspired by Princess Oriana – a character from the film 'Felix the Cat: The Movie', which had been released a few years before her birth.



As a child, Ariana had a passion for performance. When she wasn't attending the prestigious Pine Crest and North Broward Preparatory Schools – private day and boarding schools - Ariana spent her time at the Fort Lauderdale Children's Theatre. She played the title character Annie in her first ever performance and went on to star in the shows 'The Wizard of Oz' and 'Beauty and the Beast'.

Ariana Grande-Butera was born to parents Joan Grande and Edward Butera in Boca Raton, Florida, on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 1993. Joan held the position of Chief Executive Officer at a successful telephone and alarm systems company, whilst Edward owned a graphic design firm in Boca Raton.

## Rise to Fame

Ariana embarked on her career as a professional entertainer at an early age. At eight years old, Ariana was already performing in the karaoke lounges aboard cruise ships and with popular orchestras across the state of Florida.

She also sang on multiple occasions at the jazz club Birdland in New York City, before making her first national television appearance singing the USA's national anthem, 'The Star-Spangled Banner', at a Florida Panthers ice hockey match.

In 2008, at the tender age of thirteen, Ariana first appeared on Broadway in the supporting role of cheerleader Charlotte in the musical '13'. Upon joining the cast, Ariana stopped attending North Broward Preparatory School but continued to be sent work from school to complete with her tutors.

In a continuation to her acting career, Ariana secured the role of Cat Valentine in the popular Nickelodeon show 'Victorious' in 2009. The show was an overnight success, racking up almost 6 million viewers, and Ariana achieved global fame overnight. Although she loved acting and her role on the show, Ariana's determination to become a professional musician never wavered. She flew across the country to Los Angeles to meet with her managers and explained her plans to make her own R&B album.

## Musical Success



Ariana released her first studio album, 'Yours Truly', to the global market on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2013 after over three years of work. She was credited as a songwriter on numerous album tracks. The album was an instant success, selling 138,000 copies in its first week and going straight to number one on the Billboard 200 albums chart in the USA.

'Yours Truly' debuted at the top of the charts internationally – achieving a top 10 position in countries such as the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands and Australia.

By April 2014, 'Yours Truly' had sold over half a million copies in the US alone and became Ariana's first platinum album.

Ariana immediately commenced work on her second studio album, 'My Everything'. When it was released on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2014, it sold 169,000 copies in its first week and rocketed to number one, just as 'Yours Truly' had the year before. In early 2015, Ariana embarked on a series of shows in America, Europe and Asia as part of The Honeymoon Tour, with many extra dates being added midway through the run due to the show's popularity and success.

Ariana's successful fourth album, 'Dangerous Woman', was released in May 2016; she performed across the world with her 'Dangerous Woman' Tour and sold over 875,000 tickets. Ariana's next album, 'Sweetener', earned her her first prestigious Grammy Award nomination. Only six months later, she followed it up with 'Thank U, Next' which reached number one in a popular download chart within five minutes of its release. 'Positions', Ariana's sixth album, was released in 2020 and reached a top three chart position in 19 countries.

## Charitable Contributions



Ariana's work helping others began at an early age. At the age of ten, Ariana co-founded the children's singing group Kids Who Care. The group performed at charitable events and raised over \$500,000 for good causes in 2007 alone. She has continued to use her fame to promote and raise funds for charitable causes close to her heart. She created a range of cosmetics, donating 100% of the proceeds to charity.

Unfortunately, during the Manchester performance of her Dangerous Woman Tour, an explosion occurred which took the lives of 22 fans and left many others injured. Ariana immediately organised a benefit concert, named 'One Love Manchester', which was televised worldwide on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017. She performed at the concert alongside other popular musicians, such as Justin Bieber and Katy Perry, and over £15 million was raised to help the victims and their families.

In 2020, Ariana teamed up with Justin Bieber to release a single (entitled 'Stuck with U') in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; proceeds from the sale of the single were given to a charity supporting the children of key workers.

# Questions

1. 'Ariana embarked on her career as a professional entertainer.'

What does **embarked** mean? Tick one.

- gave up on
- made plans about
- was shouted at
- began

2. Why was Ariana given her name? Tick one.

- She was named after a family pet.
- She was named after a character from a film.
- Her brother Frankie chose her name.
- Her parents chose the name from a book.

3. Fill in the missing words.

As a child, Ariana had a \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Find and copy the names of **two** celebrities who performed with Ariana at the 'One Love Manchester' concert.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

5. Find and copy a phrase from the text which shows that Ariana performed at Birdland more than once.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Explain why the author has organised this text with sub-headings.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Summarise what you have read in paragraphs 3-5 in one sentence.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Why might Ariana have begun production on 'My Everything' so soon after releasing 'Yours Truly'?

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9. Explain why Ariana organised the 'One Love Manchester' concert.

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10. Do you think that Ariana will change careers in the future? Give evidence to support your answer.

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# Questions

1. 'Ariana embarked on her career as a professional entertainer.'

What does **embarked** mean? Tick one.

- gave up on
- made plans about
- was shouted at
- began**

2. Why was Ariana given her name? Tick one.

- She was named after a family pet.
- She was named after a character from a film.**
- Her brother Frankie chose her name.
- Her parents chose the name from a book.

3. Fill in the missing words.

As a child, Ariana had a **passion** for **performance**.

4. Find and copy the names of **two** celebrities who performed with Ariana at the 'One Love Manchester' concert.

**Accept the answers Justin Bieber and Katy Perry only.**

5. Find and copy a phrase from the text which shows that Ariana performed at Birdland more than once.

**(sang on) multiple occasions**

6. Explain why the author has organised this text with sub-headings.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the author has used sub-headings to make the text easier to navigate and to clearly outline what is in each section.**

7. Summarise what you have read in paragraphs 3-5 in one sentence.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Ariana started to perform from an early age and took many roles in her journey to becoming a successful singer.**

8. Why might Ariana have begun production on 'My Everything' so soon after releasing 'Yours Truly'?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Ariana probably began production soon after because her fans may have wanted to hear more of her music. She may also have has songs that she had written for her previous album that she wanted to release.**

9. Explain why Ariana organised the 'One Love Manchester' concert.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Ariana organised the concert in a bid to raise money to help the victims of the explosion and their families. She may also have wanted to honour the lives of those that had tragically passed away at the concert.**

10. Do you think that Ariana will change careers in the future? Give evidence to support your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Yes, I think Ariana may use her fame to transition into a different role. Perhaps she will use her acting skills and take up a film role or host her own TV show.**