

Rock superstar Prince dies at 57

23rd April, 2016



The rock superstar Prince has died at the age of 57. He passed away on Thursday at his home in Minneapolis. His death comes a week after his plane made an emergency landing to take the singer to hospital.

Reports were that he had dehydration and the flu. His death has shocked the entertainment world. Many celebrities have been sharing their thoughts about him on social media. Madonna wrote: "He changed the world. A true visionary. What a loss. I'm devastated." President Barack Obama called him, "one of the most gifted and prolific musicians of our time". He added that: "Prince did it all. Funk, R&B, rock and roll. He was a virtuoso instrumentalist, a brilliant bandleader, and an electrifying performer."

Prince was the son of a jazz pianist. His real name was Prince Rogers Nelson. His father said: "I named my son Prince because I wanted him to do everything I wanted to do." He burst onto the music scene in the late seventies. His singing, songwriting, guitar-playing, on-stage performances and producing changed the music world over the next four decades. The Washington Post called him, "one of the most popular, inventive and influential recording artists of his generation". The music icon sold over 100 million records. He is perhaps best known for his 1984 album 'Purple Rain'. The music magazine Rolling Stone ranked Prince at number 27 on its list of the 100 Greatest Artists of All Time.

Sources: *Rolling Stone* / *Washington Post* / *NBC News*

Writing

Music is the greatest art. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

superstar / emergency / entertainment / social media / visionary / musicians / R&B / jazz / pianist / music scene / the late seventies / guitar / recording / music icon / list

True / False

- The singer Prince died at his home on Thursday. T / F
- Prince was taken to hospital last week with a suspected heart attack. T / F
- The former soccer player Maradona called Prince a "true visionary". T / F
- Barack Obama said Prince was a brilliant bandleader. T / F
- 'Prince' was not the singer's real name. T / F
- Prince first became known in the music world at the end of the 1970s. T / F
- Prince sold over 200 million records. T / F
- 'Rolling Stone' put Prince at 27 on its all-time greatest artists list. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. passed away | a. passing |
| 2. death | b. talented |
| 3. shocked | c. exploded |
| 4. gifted | d. most famous |
| 5. performer | e. died |
| 6. named | f. idol |
| 7. burst | g. stunned |
| 8. inventive | h. called |
| 9. icon | i. artist |
| 10. best known | j. creative |

Discussion – Student A

- How important is music?
- What is your favourite musical genre and why?
- What decade has been the best for music?
- Would you prefer to be a singer, guitarist or songwriter?
- What's your favourite song and why?
- Who is the most influential singer in your culture?
- Who are the greatest musical artists of all time?
- What questions would you like to ask an expert on Prince?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. He passed | a. entertainment world |
| 2. his plane made an emergency | b. seventies |
| 3. His death has shocked the | c. performer |
| 4. one of the most gifted and | d. music scene |
| 5. an electrifying | e. landing |
| 6. Prince was the son of a jazz | f. away on Thursday |
| 7. He burst onto the | g. four decades |
| 8. in the late | h. prolific musicians |
| 9. over the next | i. number 27 on its list |
| 10. 'Rolling Stone' ranked Prince at | j. pianist |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about Prince?
- What do you think about Prince and his music?
- Who is your favourite musician and why?
- What kind of life does a rock superstar have?
- How do you think Prince changed the world?
- How important are great musical artists?
- Who is the most gifted person you know?
- What kind of rock star would you be?

Spelling

- He padess away on Thursday
- his plane made an grenecmye landing
- he had eoniddrahyt and the flu
- riilecbeest have been sharing their thoughts
- A true vaiorniys
- an electrifying mfrepreor
- the son of a jazz tasinpi
- He rtbus onto the music scene
- in the late esevsenti
- over the next four deaecsd
- recording artists of his niraegetno
- The music nagiaezm Rolling Stone

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. a	3. g	4. b	5. i
6. h	7. c	8. j	9. f	10. d

Role Play

Role A – R&B

You think R&B is the best music genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their genre. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): rock 'n' roll, hip hop or techno.

Role B – Rock 'n' Roll

You think rock 'n' roll is the best music genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their genre. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): R&B, hip hop or techno.

Role C – Hip hop

You think hip hop is the best music genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their genre. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): rock 'n' roll, R&B or techno.

Role D – Techno

You think techno is the best music genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their genre. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): rock 'n' roll, hip hop or R&B.

Speaking – Genres

Rank these with your partner. Put the best music genres at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| • funk | • jazz |
| • R&B | • hip hop |
| • rock 'n' roll | • electro |
| • heavy metal | • country |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.