Ariana Grande

Early Life

Ariana Grande-Butera was born in Boca Raton, Florida, on the 26th 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.

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 10, 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.

Rise to Fame

Many people enjoyed listening to Ariana sing. At the age of 8 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 13 years old, Ariana first appeared on Broadway, starring 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 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.

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Musical Success

Ariana released her first studio album, Yours Truly, on 30th 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 25th 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 began recording songs for her third studio album, originally called Moonlight, in 2015. However, by the time the album was released on 20th May 2016, she had renamed it Dangerous Woman and it entered the charts at number two.

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.

From there, Ariana's recognition continued to grow, earning her many sought-after and respected awards, such as 6 Japan Gold Disc Awards, 10 Teen Choice Awards and 12 MTV Music Awards from around the globe – reinforcing, once again, that she is one of the most successful musicians in showbusiness today.

Glossary

Broadway – A street of professional theatres in New York.

Orchestra – A group of musicians playing instruments together.

R&B – Short for 'rhythm and blues'. A type of music.

Showbusiness – The theatre, film, TV and pop music industry.

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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.

My Everything	2016
Dangerous Woman	2014
Yours Truly	2013

3. Which two awards did Ariana win in 2013?
   - _____
   - _____

4. Which of Ariana's albums was released most recently?

   _____

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

   _____

6. 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.

   _____

   _____

   _____

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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.

My Everything	2016
Dangerous Woman	2014
Yours Truly	2013

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. Which of Ariana's albums was released most recently?
   Accept the answer 'Dangerous Woman' only.

5. Find and copy a word from the fifth paragraph which shows that the orchestras Ariana performed with were well-known.
   Accept the answer 'popular' only.

6. Has Ariana Grande had a successful career to date? Explain your answer.
   Accept the answer 'yes', provided that it is accompanied by a reasonable explanation, such as:
   - **Yes, I think that Ariana has had a successful career to date because she has sold many copies of her albums.**
   - **Yes because she 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?
   Accept any answer which explains that Ariana's nominations are because she is good at what she does, many people enjoy her work or she is well liked by her fans and peers, e.g. 'I think she has been nominated because so many people like her music.'

8. What do you think that Ariana will do next in her career? Explain your answer.
   Accept any reasonable and sensible prediction about what Ariana may do next in her career, based on her life so far as discussed in the text, including:
   - **Release another album**
   - **Tour / hold concerts**
   - **Return to her acting career and get another role on TV**
   - **Appear in another show on Broadway**