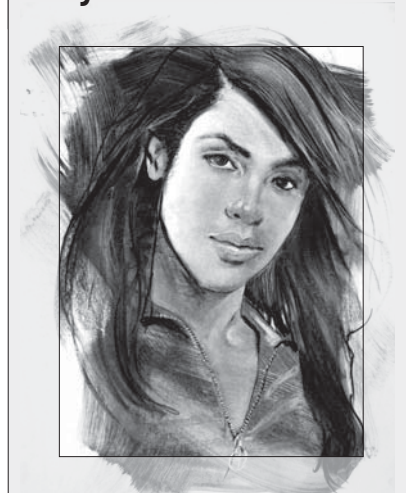


Name: _____ Date: _____

Aaliyah One in a Million



On January 16, 1979, in Brooklyn, New York, Aaliyah Dana Haughton was born. Her parents named her Aaliyah, which means “the highest, most exalted one.” Aaliyah spent most of her childhood enjoying music while living in Detroit, Michigan. When she reached nine years old, Aaliyah entered the youth competition on *Star Search*. The young performer did not win but continued to sing. At age 11, the legendary Gladys Knight selected Aaliyah to perform with her in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Aaliyah released her first album, *Age Ain't Nothing but a Number*, in 1994 at age 14. The album featured the hit single, “Back and Forth.” The debut song ranked number one on R&B charts and number five on the Billboard Hot 100.

The young artist released her second record in 1996, *One in a Million*. “If Your Girl Only Knew,” the first **single** off of this album, went double platinum. While Aaliyah’s career took off, she always remained true to her education. In 1997 Aaliyah graduated from the Detroit Performing Arts High School with a 4.0 GPA.

As Aaliyah continued to **pursue** her music career, the entertainment world began to notice her. In 1998 Aaliyah recorded songs for the *Dr. Doolittle* and *Anastasia* soundtracks. “Journey to the Past” received an Academy Award nomination for Best Song. During 2000, Aaliyah made her movie debut when she costarred with Jet Li in *Romeo Must Die*. The soundtrack to this film included Aaliyah’s mega-hit “Try Again.” This song became Aaliyah’s first single ever to reach number one on the Billboard Hot 100.

In 2001 Aaliyah began filming her next movie, *The Queen of the Damned*, which was to be released in 2002. The year 2001 also saw Aaliyah’s third album, *Aaliyah*, debut at number two on Billboard charts. Aaliyah was hotter than ever; however, tragedy soon hit.

In August of 2001, Aaliyah traveled to the Bahamas to shoot the “Rock the Boat” video. Once she finished filming the video, Aaliyah and her staff boarded a small airplane. Aaliyah never arrived at her **destination** of Miami, Florida. Instead, right after the plane took off from Marsh Harbour, it crashed and exploded upon impact. On August 25, 2001, Aaliyah died at only 22 years old. An **autopsy** showed both alcohol and drugs in the pilot’s blood. In addition, the plane appeared to be overloaded by several hundred pounds. Aaliyah was buried in Hartsdale, New York, on August 31, 2001.

While Aaliyah may have died before her time, her music and legacy live on. Aaliyah once said, “...I want to be remembered...as a full on entertainer.” To honor her wish, Aaliyah’s family released two more albums containing songs she had performed throughout her career.

Name: _____ Date: _____



MULTIPLE CHOICE Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

1. The name "Aaliyah" means _____.
A. the perfect
B. the highest
C. the singer
D. the star
2. Aaliyah released her first album when she was _____ years old.
A. 11
B. 12
C. 14
D. 22
3. Aaliyah costarred in her first movie with _____.
A. Anastasia
B. Gladys Knight
C. Dr. Doolittle
D. Jet Li
4. When Aaliyah's plane crashed, she was only _____ years old.
A. 22
B. 25
C. 31
D. 40
5. Aaliyah said she always wanted to be remembered as _____.
A. a loving daughter
B. an entertainer
C. a talented actress
D. a legend

Name: _____ Date: _____



VOCABULARY Find the bold words in the article. Use the words around them to help you figure out the meanings. Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

1. In paragraph one, the word “exalted” means _____.
A. lovely
B. honored
C. tall
D. disliked

2. In paragraph three, the word “single” means _____.
A. couple
B. one person
C. compact disc
D. song

3. In paragraph four, the word “pursue” means _____.
A. follow
B. bag
C. play
D. dance

4. In paragraph six, the word “destination” means _____.
A. parked car
B. planned ending place
C. mother’s home
D. music career

5. In paragraph six, the word “autopsy” means _____.
A. inspection of an automobile
B. private airplane
C. examination of a dead body
D. a drawer inside the plane