

Name _____

Date _____



Alex Haley

Alexander Murray Palmer Haley was born on August 11, 1921, in Ithaca, New York. His father was a professor and his mother was a teacher. His first five years of his life were spent in Tennessee. He loved to hear his grandmother tell of family traditions passed from one generation to the next. He also loved to read, especially stories of adventure. He graduated from high school at the age of fifteen.

He enrolled at Alcorn A & M College in Mississippi. In 1939, he joined the United States Coast Guard and began writing articles and short stories which he later sold to magazines. To relieve his boredom on the ship, Haley would write love letters for his friends who were not good at writing. By 1949, Haley had been promoted to chief journalist of the Coast Guard and held that position until he retired in 1959 after 20 years of service. He was highly decorated.

Alex Haley interviewed very famous African Americans like Martin Luther King Jr., Sammy Davis Jr., Quincy Jones and Malcolm X.

Haley spent twelve years researching his book *Roots*. In this book he combined fact with fiction to tell the history of his family. He began by telling how his ancestor, Kunte Kinte, was kidnapped in Gambia in 1767 and taken to America as a slave. He went on to tell of the struggles of his family in America.

In 1977, Alex Haley received a special Pulitzer Prize and the Spingarn Medal for his book *Roots*. Alex Haley died in 1992 at the age of seventy.

1. When was Alex Haley born?
 - a. He was born in 1939.
 - b. He was born in 1949.
 - c. He was born in 1921.
 - d. He was born in 1767.
2. What did his father do for a living?
 - a. His father was a teacher.
 - b. His father was a bus driver.
 - c. His father was a mechanic.
 - d. His father was a professor.
3. How old was he when he graduated from high school?
 - a. He was 15.
 - b. He was 16.
 - c. He was 18.
 - d. He was 21.
4. What college did he go to?
 - a. He went to the Coast Guard.
 - b. He went to Georgia University.
 - c. He went to Tennessee University.
 - d. He went to Alcorn A & M college.
5. When did he join the United States Coast Guard?
 - a. He joined in 1921.
 - b. He joined in 1939.
 - c. He joined in 1924.
 - d. He joined in 1959.
6. Who did Alex Haley interview?
 - a. He interviewed Diana Ross.
 - b. He interviewed Kunte Kinte.
 - c. He interviewed Martin Luther King Jr.
 - d. He interviewed his mother.
7. How long did he spend researching his book?
 - a. He spent 5 years.
 - b. He spent 10 years.
 - c. He spent 12 years.
 - d. He spent 13 years.
8. What's the name of his book?
 - a. The name of his book is Kunte Kinte.
 - b. The name of his book is Roots.
 - c. The name of his book is Alex.
 - d. The name is his book is Pulitzer.
9. What is his book about?
 - a. It's about the history of his family.
 - b. It's about his recipes.
 - c. It's about the United States.
 - d. It's about his future.
10. When did he pass away?
 - a. He passed away in 1929.
 - b. He passed away in 1919.
 - c. He passed away in 1992.
 - d. He passed away in 1959.

Name _____ Date _____

Alex Haley

Circle the correct answer.

Alex Haley was born in 1922.	True	False
Alex Haley hated to read.	True	False
Alex Haley graduated from high school when he was eighteen.	True	False
Alex Haley spent 20 years in the military.	True	False
Alex Haley did not go to college.	True	False
Alex Haley wrote the book "Roots".	True	False
Alex Haley was in the U.S. Army.	True	False
Alex Haley's brother's name is Kunta Kinte.	True	False
Alex Haley spent 10 years researching his book, "Roots."	True	False
The book "Roots" is about Alex Haley's family.	True	False
Alex Haley received three awards for his book, Roots.	True	False
Alex Haley is American.	True	False
Alex Haley died in 1982.	True	False
Alex Haley was born in Massachusetts.	True	False

Name _____ Date _____

Alex Haley

Choose the correct word from the Word Box to complete the sentences.

professors	generation	graduated	join	decorate	retire
interview	research	die	boring	famous	ancestors

1. When people turn 65 years old, they have to _____ from work.
2. Did you _____ the baseball team?
3. That movie was so _____ that I fell asleep during the movie.
4. There were black and white TVs in my parent's _____ but not mine.
5. Let's _____ our house for Christmas.
6. I like to _____ what happened in history.
7. People who teach at a university are called _____.
8. My family from a long time ago are my _____.
9. If you don't water the flowers, they will _____.
10. Jill _____ from high school in 1985.
11. There are many _____ cartoons in the world.
12. Everyone has to have an _____ when they want to work at a company.

Name _____ Date _____

Alex Haley

adventure
Alexander
American
August
ancestor
book
coast guard
college

decorated
facts
family
fiction
Gambia
Haley
history
interview

journalist
medal
military
Mississippi
Murray
New York
Palmer
published

Pulitzer
read
research
Spingarn
struggle
Tennessee
tradition
writer

A M A I T E N N E S S E E P I N E N F Y H O
D W I C A N T S U G U A I P R O O N M H C K
V E B A W R I T E R I S S A R I D E E U O I
E R M N I C T C U J M I G A T L A S I O A L
C O A S T G U A R D R N R C Z E E S B I S A
T H G A M B H F Y B I N I L I T R I P P E D
U D E H S I L B U P G F P U P A L M E R R E
R O O K B H M B S I A N E W Y M O I R K U M
E A I B M G A A D V E N T U R E U B L I S T
J O U R N A L I S T S H E D R R P I N G A G
I U E X N O I T I D A R T E H I S T O R Y R
P Y R E D F A V I E W I N T E C R T Y U S E
P Y E L A H H N E W Y O R K W A R E S E T W
I A D A M E R I C O O R T Y E N I M L C R E
S N N H E H C R A E S E R T R U U I O S U I
S C A N S W Y E Q Y S S A R E J N L F S G V
I E X O A L U P U L I T Z E R N L I E E G R
S S E O I E X A E D H U O B U E A T R N L E
S T L M U R R A Y B U H G R G Y T A T N E T
I R A A E D W Q T U I V E E T U R R A E E N
M F F Y U D E C O R A T E D U N E Y W T E I

Name _____ Date _____

Alex Haley - Answers

adventure
Alexander
American
August
ancestor
book
coast guard
college

decorated
facts
family
fiction
Gambia
Haley
history
interview

journalist
medal
military
Mississippi
Murray
New York
Palmer
published

Pulitzer
read
research
Spingarn
struggle
Tennessee
tradition
writer

A M A I T E N N E S S E E P I N E N F Y H O
D W I C A N T S U G U A I P R O O N M H C K
V E B A W R I T E R I S S A R I D E E U O I
E R M N I C T C U J M I G A T L A S I O A L
C O A S T G U A R D R N R C Z E E S B I S A
T H G A M B H F Y B I N I L I T R I P P E D
U D E H S I L B U P G F P U P A L M E R R E
R O O K B H M B S I A N E W Y M O I R K U M
E A I B M G A A D V E N T U R E U B L I S T
J O U R N A L I S T S H E D R R P I N G A G
I U E X N O I T I D A R T E H I S T O R Y R
P Y R E D F A V I E W I N T E C R T Y U S E
P Y E L A H H N E W Y O R K W A R E S E T W
I A D A M E R I C O O R T Y E N I M L C R E
S N N H E H C R A E S E R T R U U I O S U I
S C A N S W Y E Q Y S S A R E J N L F S G V
I E X O A L U P U L I T Z E R N L I E E G R
S S E O I E X A E D H U O B U E A T R N L E
S T L M U R R A Y B U H G R G Y T A T N E T
I R A A E D W Q T U I V E E T U R R A E E N
M F F Y U D E C O R A T E D U N E Y W T E I

Name _____ Date _____

Alex Haley - Answers

Page 1 & 2:

1. Alex Haley was born on August 11, 1921.
2. Alex Haley was born in Ithaca, New York.
3. His father was a professor.
4. Alex Haley liked to read adventure.
5. Alex Haley went to Alcorn A & M College.
6. Alex Haley served 20 years in the Coast Guard
7. Alex Haley retired from the military in 1959.
8. The famous book that Alex Haley wrote was Roots.
9. Alex Haley passed away in 1977.

Page 3:

- | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. false | 2. false | 3. false | 4. true | 5. false | 6. true |
| 7. false | 8. false | 9. false | 10. true | 11. true | 12. true |
| 13. false | 14. false | | | | |

Page 4:

1. When people turn 65 years old, they have to retire from work.
2. Did you join the baseball team?
3. That movie was so boring that I fell asleep during the movie.
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5. Let's decorate our house for Christmas.
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