Duke Ellington

Edward Kennedy Ellington was born in Washington D.C. on April 29, 1899. He earned the nickname "Duke" in school because he liked to dress in flashy clothes. His friends said he was always "duked out."

At the age of seven, he began taking piano lessons. At times he hated to practice. By the age of seventeen, he had composed his first song, "The Soda Fountain Rag."

For almost fifty years Duke Ellington's jazz band, The Washingtonians, gave concerts in the United States and Europe. During his career he made many hit records and attracted standing-room-only audiences to his concerts.

Duke Ellington was the first living musician to set up a scholarship fund. His scholarship fund was for talented young people who wanted to go to the Julliard School of Music.

1. Where was Ellington born?
a. He was born on April 29, 1899.   b. He was born in Europe.
c. He was born in Washington D.C.   d. He was born in Africa.

2. When was Ellington born?
a. He was born on May 29, 1998.   b. He was born on April 29, 1999.
c. He was born on August 29, 1998.   d. He was born on April 29, 1899.

3. Why did he get the nickname "Duke"?
a. He liked to wear white clothes.   b. He liked to wear flashy clothes.
c. He liked to wear bright clothes.   d. He liked to wear black clothes.

4. When did he start taking piano lessons?
a. He was 4 years old.   b. He was 5 years old.
c. He was 6 years old.   d. He was 7 years old.

5. How old was he when he wrote his first song?
a. He was 17.   b. He was 16.
c. He was 15.   d. He was 14.

6. Where did he give concerts?
a. in the USA and Asia   b. in the USA and Africa
c. in the USA and Europe   d. in Europe and Asia

7. Why did he set up a scholarship fund?
a. It was for young people who wanted to go to the Julliard School of Music.
b. It was for young people who wanted to learn how to play the piano.
c. It was for young people who wanted to learn how to sing.
d. It was for old people who wanted to learn how to dance.