

Name:

Date:



Maria Tall- chief



Maria Tallchief was a famous ballerina. She was born in 1925 on a Native American reservation. Her father was a Native American. When Maria was a child, she enjoyed music and took piano lessons. She also liked to play outside with her sister.

When Maria was eight, her family moved to Los Angeles, California. Her mother loved music and dance. She hoped that Maria and her brothers and sisters would become movie stars. Maria soon started taking ballet classes. Every day, she practiced piano and ballet. However, when she was 12, her father told her to choose between piano and ballet. Maria chose ballet.

Maria started taking dance classes at a new ballet school. Her teacher was a famous ballerina named Madame Nijinska. Madame Nijinska was from Russia, and she taught Maria for the next five years. When Maria was 17, she moved to New York to join a famous ballet company called the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo.

While Maria was a dancer with the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, she met a famous choreographer named George Balanchine. Balanchine liked Maria's dancing, so she often gave her important parts in his ballet performances. Maria traveled around the world and danced in many countries. Later, Maria and Balanchine got married, and Balanchine left the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. He started his own ballet company called the New York City Ballet. Maria soon joined the company and became its star ballerina. Later, she became a ballet teacher and worked for some famous ballet companies.



1. When Maria Tallchief was a child, she
 - a. liked music and playing outside
 - b. performed in a play at school
 - c. was a famous pianist
 - d. met a famous movie star

2. How old was Maria when she moved to California?
 - a. Five
 - b. Eight
 - c. Twelve
 - d. Seventeen

3. Why did Maria go to New York?
 - a. She wanted to join a famous ballet company.
 - b. She didn't like Madame Nijinska.
 - c. She wanted to live with her brothers and sisters.
 - d. She was told to go there by her father.

4. What did George Balanchine do for Maria?
 - a. He gave her important parts in his ballet performances.
 - b. He introduced her to a star ballerina.
 - c. He sent her presents from many countries.
 - d. He took her to see the New York City Ballet.

5. What is this story about?
 - a. A ballet company from Russia.
 - b. A popular piano teacher from New York.
 - c. A famous Native American ballerina.
 - d. A big dance school in the United States.