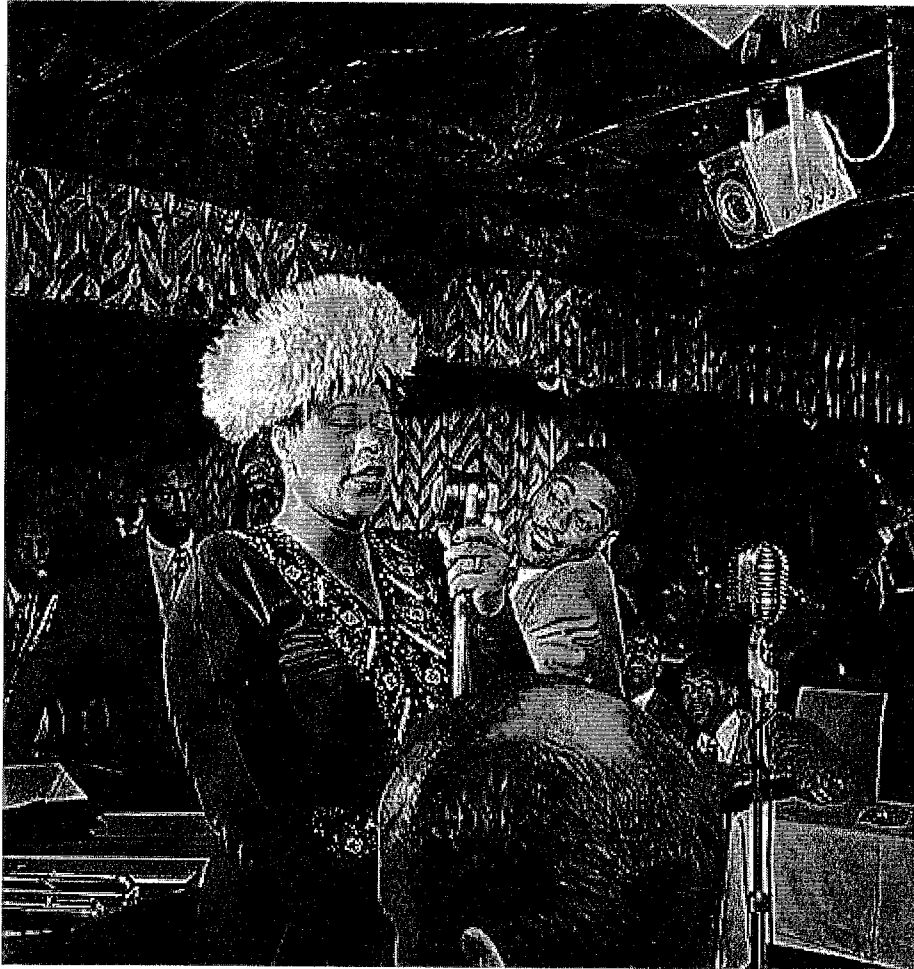


The First Lady of Song

by ReadWorks



Ella Fitzgerald

In 1934, a teenager named Ella Fitzgerald was going to perform at the Apollo. The Apollo is a famous theater in New York City. Ella had planned to dance. Before Ella's turn, two sisters danced for their performance. They danced so well, Ella was afraid her dance would not be as good. So she decided to sing instead. When it was her turn, Ella got on stage and the crowd started to boo. But when she sang, they became quiet. By the end of her first song, they wanted her to sing more!

That performance was a very important event in Ella's life. It helped start her music career. Ella grew up to become one of the best jazz singers of all time. Ella started out by singing in different bands. Then she began to perform on her own. Ella's voice was warm and clear. She could sing a variety of notes. She could copy the sounds of different instruments while she sang. This type of singing is called scat singing. It's no wonder people call her "The First Lady of Song."

Ella also recorded songs created by other musicians. A songwriter once said, "I never knew how good our songs were until I heard Ella Fitzgerald sing them."

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Who was Ella Fitzgerald?

- A. one of the best jazz singers of all time
- B. one of the best ballerinas of all time
- C. one of the best opera singers of all time

2. What does the text describe?

- A. Ella Fitzgerald's childhood
- B. Ella Fitzgerald's character
- C. Ella Fitzgerald's singing

3. Read the following sentences:

Ella's voice was warm and clear. She could sing a variety of notes. She could copy the sounds of different instruments while she sang. This type of singing is called scat singing. It's no wonder people call her "The First Lady of Song."

Based on this information, why do people call Ella Fitzgerald "The First Lady of Song"?

- A. She was married to the president of the United States during the time she became a famous singer.
- B. She was incredibly talented as a singer and could change her voice in different ways.
- C. She was the first person to sing a variety of notes in her songs and copy the sounds of different instruments.

4. Based on the text, what can you conclude about the audience that watched Ella perform at The Apollo?

- A. At first they thought she was going to sing really well. But then they became disappointed by her performance.
- B. They were very excited to see her perform and were happy she sang as well as they thought she could.
- C. At first they thought she was going to perform poorly. But then they became excited by how well she sang.

5. What is the main idea of the text?

A. Ella Fitzgerald was one of the best jazz singers of all time. She could sing a variety of notes and copy the sounds of different instruments.

B. In 1934, Ella Fitzgerald performed at the famous Apollo theater in New York City. At first the audience started to boo, but by the end of her song they wanted her to sing more.

C. Ella Fitzgerald recorded songs created by other musicians. Songwriters were happy to have Ella sing their songs because she was such an amazing singer.