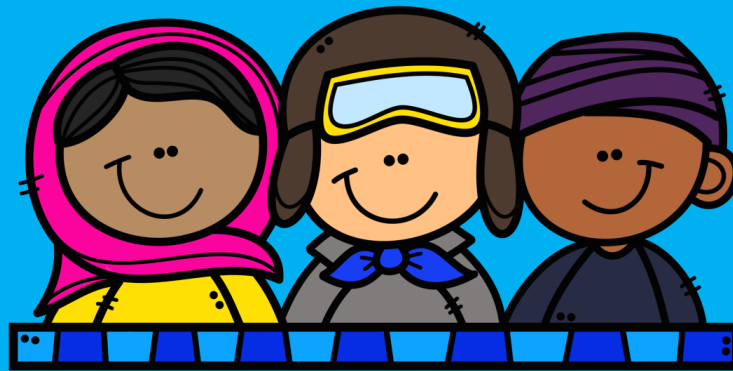


CELEBRATING

HERstory:



JOSEPHINE BAKER

HERstory:

"ALL MY LIFE I
HAVE
MAINTAINED THAT
THE WORLD CAN
LEARN TO LIVE
TOGETHER IN
PEACE IF THEY
ARE NOT
BROUGHT UP IN
PREJUDICE."



-JOSEPHINE
BAKER

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JOSEPHINE BAKER

Before She Became a Star

Freda McDonald was born in 1906. She would be known as Josephine Baker. Her father left her family when she was young. She grew up very poor. To help support her family, Josephine began working when she was a kid.

Josephine began dancing in the streets to try to earn money for her family. She was a beautiful dancer, and people noticed her talent. At 15, she left home and tried to begin her career as a dancer. She had a gift for dancing and hoped to be famous.



New York to Paris!

After Josephine left home, she changed her name to Josephine Baker. She moved to New York City. During this time, segregation was happening in America. Black and white people did not have the same rights. As a black performer, Josephine had a hard time getting jobs in clubs with white owners. She was told that her skin was “too dark” to be a major star.



Josephine knew that she couldn't be a star in America, so she moved to Paris, France. She was known for her dancing and funny acting. Author Ernest Hemingway saw her perform. He called her, “the most sensational woman anybody ever saw.” She had finally made her dreams come true.

JOSEPHINE BAKER

Her Secret Life

Josephine had found success in Paris, but World War II started in 1939. At one point during the war, Germany had invaded, or taken over France. Josephine wanted to help the French army, but how could she help? She was just a dancer.

Josephine kept performing her shows, and often German military men would come to enjoy them. She would listen closely to their conversations. She would then use invisible ink to write down what she heard. She gave these notes to the French army. These notes helped to defeat the Germans.



Why We Remember HER-Story

Josephine was a brave spy. She was also a talented entertainer. She was not given a chance in America due to the unjust laws. We remember her because she showed that women should be seen for their talent and not for the color of their skin. As a star, she used her fame to teach people in America about treating everyone equally.

JOSEPHINE BAKER

NAME:_____

1. Which section answers the question, "Why was Josephine not famous in America?"
 - a. Her Secret Life
 - b. Why We Remember Her-story
 - c. Before She Became a Star
 - d. New York to Paris

2. Which of the following can the reader infer from the section, "Her Secret Life."
 - a. She probably despised America for treating her so badly.
 - b. She probably enjoyed performing for the German Army.
 - c. She loved France and was willing to risk her life to save it.
 - d. She wanted to help the Germans win the war.

3. What is the main idea of the article?
 - a. Josephine Baker was not a famous dancer in America.
 - b. Josephine Baker was a talented star and important spy who showed the world that women can do anything.
 - c. Josephine Baker was a popular dancer in Paris, France.
 - d. Josephine Baker was an American who was treated unfairly because of the color of her skin.

JOSEPHINE BAKER

NAME:_____

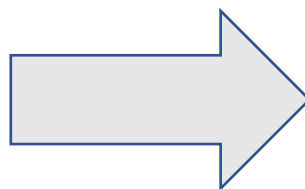
4. What does "sensational" mean in the sentence below?

Ernest Hemingway saw her perform and called her, "the most sensational woman anybody ever saw."

- a. Amazing
- b. Scary
- c. Powerful
- d. Smartest

5. Fill in the cause and effect graphic organizer below:

CAUSE



EFFECT

Josephine
moved to
France.

Which of the following would complete this graphic?

- a. Josephine moved to New York City.
- b. Josephine began dancing in the streets for money.
- c. Josephine could not become a star in America because of unfair laws.
- d. Josephine's family needed money.

JOSEPHINE BAKER

NAME:_____

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JOSEPHINE BAKER

NAME:_____

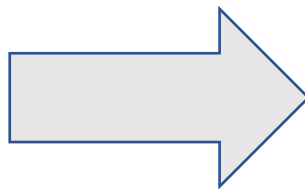
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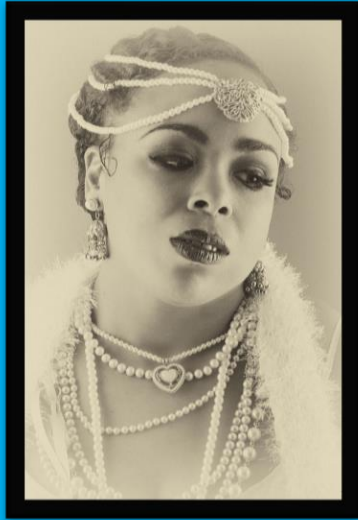
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DISCUSSION PROMPTS:

1. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE JOSEPHINE'S EARLY LIFE?
2. DO YOU THINK IT WAS A HARD DECISION TO MOVE TO FRANCE? WHY OR WHY NOT?
3. WHY DO YOU THINK JOSEPHINE BECAME A SPY?
4. WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD REMEMBER MOST ABOUT JOSEPHINE BAKER?
5. WHAT LESSON CAN WE LEARN FROM HER AMAZING LIFE?

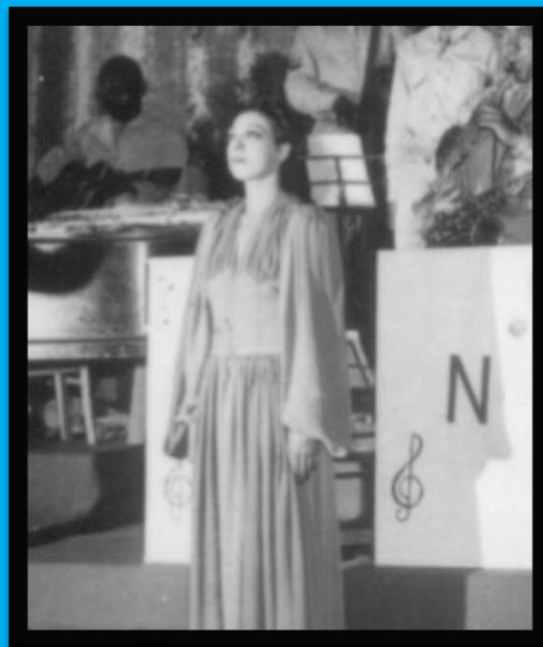
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WORDS THAT DESCRIBE
JOSEPHINE



SEE HER DANCE



HEAR HER SING

REFERENCES

Information about Josephine taken from her Official Site:

<https://www.cmgww.com/stars/baker/about/biography/>

Photos from Wikimedia