

Ariana Grande

Early Life

Ariana Grande-Butera was born in Boca Raton, Florida, on the 26th June 1993. Her mother, Joan, ran a successful telephone and alarm company and her father, Edward, owned a graphic design company. Ariana's parents and her older brother, Frankie, had moved from New York to Florida just before she was born.

As a child, Ariana loved to sing and perform. When she wasn't attending Pine Crest School, Ariana spent her time at a children's theatre group. She played the lead character Annie in her first ever performance and went on to star in shows such as *The Wizard of Oz* and *Beauty and the Beast*.

At the age of 10, Ariana helped to create a children's singing group called Kids Who Care. The group performed at charity events and raised over half a million dollars for good causes in 2007 alone.



Rise to Fame

Many people enjoyed listening to Ariana sing. At the age of 8 years old, Ariana was already performing on cruise ships and with popular orchestras all around Florida. It was at this age that she first appeared on national television singing the USA's national anthem, *The Star-Spangled Banner*, at a Florida Panthers ice hockey match.

In 2008, when she was just 13 years old, Ariana first appeared on Broadway, starring a cheerleader called Charlotte in the musical *13*. It wasn't long until Ariana became serious about creating her own music. She flew across the country to Los Angeles and met with her managers. She told them that she wanted to make her own R&B album.

In 2009, Ariana got the role of Cat Valentine in the popular TV show *Victorious*. The show was a hit with almost 6 million viewers and Ariana quickly became famous around the world. Although she loved acting and her role on the show, Ariana knew that music was more important and again set her sights on becoming a professional musician.

Musical Success

Ariana released her first studio album, *Yours Truly*, on 30th August 2013. It had taken her three years to record and she wrote many of the songs on the album herself. The album was an instant success, selling 138,000 copies in its first week and going straight to number one on the charts in the USA.

Straight away, Ariana began to record her second album, *My Everything*. When it was released on 25th August 2014, it sold 169,000 copies in its first week and rocketed to number one, just as *Yours Truly* had the year before.

Ariana began recording songs for her third studio album, originally called *Moonlight*, in 2015. However, by the time the album was released on 20th May 2016, she had renamed it *Dangerous Woman* and it entered the charts at number two.



Awards and Nominations

Ariana's talent for performing, both musically and on screen, is appreciated around the world. Ariana's gifts were immediately recognised upon the release of her first album, *Yours Truly*, in 2013. That year, Ariana won the New Artist of the Year honour at the American Music Awards, as well as being named Favourite TV Actress at the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards. She earned this title for her role as Cat Valentine in the show *Sam & Cat*, a spin-off series based on the successful show *Victorious* which had ended that year.

From there, Ariana's recognition continued to grow, earning her many sought-after and respected awards, such as 6 Japan Gold Disc Awards, 10 Teen Choice Awards and 12 MTV Music Awards from around the globe – reinforcing, once again, that she is one of the most successful musicians in showbusiness today.

Glossary

Broadway – A street of professional theatres in New York.

Orchestra – A group of musicians playing instruments together.

R&B – Short for 'rhythm and blues'. A type of music.

Showbusiness – The theatre, film, TV and pop music industry.

Questions

1. **'...earning her many sought-after awards.'** What does sought-after mean? Tick one.

- unpleasant
 desired
 weighty
 impossible

2. Match the name of the album to the year it was released.

My Everything
Dangerous Woman
Yours Truly

2016
2014
2013

3. Which two awards did Ariana win in 2013?

- _____
- _____

4. Which of Ariana's albums was released most recently?

5. Find and copy a word from the fifth paragraph which shows that the orchestras Ariana performed with were well-known.

6. Has Ariana Grande had a successful career to date? Explain your answer.

7. Why do you think that Ariana has been nominated for so many awards?

8. What do you think that Ariana will do next in her career? Explain your answer.

Answers

1. '...earning her many sought-after awards.' What does sought-after mean? Tick one.

- unpleasant
 desired
 weighty
 impossible

2. Match the name of the album to the year it was released.

My Everything	2016
Dangerous Woman	2014
Yours Truly	2013

3. Which two awards did Ariana win in 2013?

Accept the following two answers only:

- **New Artist of the Year (at the American Music Awards)**
- **Favourite TV Actress (at the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards)**

4. Which of Ariana's albums was released most recently?

Accept the answer 'Dangerous Woman' only.

5. Find and copy a word from the fifth paragraph which shows that the orchestras Ariana performed with were well-known.

Accept the answer 'popular' only.

6. Has Ariana Grande had a successful career to date? Explain your answer.

Accept the answer 'yes', provided that it is accompanied by a reasonable explanation, such as:

- **Yes, I think that Ariana has had a successful career to date because she has sold many copies of her albums.**
- **Yes because she has won a lot of awards for her music and acting.**

7. Why do you think that Ariana has been nominated for so many awards?

Accept any answer which explains that Ariana's nominations are because she is good at what she does, many people enjoy her work or she is well liked by her fans and peers, e.g. 'I think she has been nominated because so many people like her music.'

8. What do you think that Ariana will do next in her career? Explain your answer.

Accept any reasonable and sensible prediction about what Ariana may do next in her career, based on her life so far as discussed in the text, including:

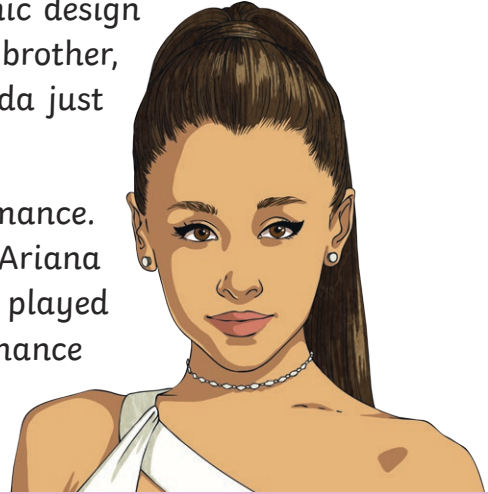
- **Release another album**
- **Tour / hold concerts**
- **Return to her acting career and get another role on TV**
- **Appear in another show on Broadway**

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As a child, Ariana had a passion for performance. When she wasn't attending Pine Crest School, Ariana spent her time at a children's theatre group. She played the lead character Annie in her first ever performance and went on to star in shows such as *The Wizard of Oz* and *Beauty and the Beast*.



Rise to Fame

Ariana began her career as a professional entertainer at an early age. At 8 years old, Ariana was already performing in the karaoke lounges aboard cruise ships and with popular orchestras all around Florida. It was at this age that she first appeared on national television singing the USA's national anthem, *The Star-Spangled Banner*, at a Florida Panthers ice hockey match.

In 2008, when she was just 13 years old, Ariana first appeared on Broadway, starring as the supporting role of cheerleader Charlotte in the musical *13*. Upon joining the cast, Ariana left North Broward Preparatory School but continued to be sent work from school to complete with her tutors.

In a continuation to her acting career, Ariana got the role of Cat Valentine in the popular Nickelodeon show *Victorious* in 2009. The show was a hit with almost 6 million viewers and Ariana quickly became famous around the world. Although she loved acting and her role on the show, Ariana knew that music was more important and again set her sights on becoming a professional musician. She flew across the country to Los Angeles to meet with her managers and told them that she wanted to make her own R&B album.

Musical Success

Ariana released her first studio album, *Yours Truly*, to the global market on 30th August 2013 after over three years of work. She had written many of the songs on the album herself. The album was an instant success, selling 138,000 copies

in its first week and going straight to number one on the charts in the USA.

Ariana immediately began work on her second studio album, *My Everything*. When it was released on 25th August 2014, it sold 169,000 copies in its first week and rocketed to number one, just as *Yours Truly* had the year before. In early 2015, Ariana performed a series of shows in America, Europe and Asia as part of *The Honeymoon Tour*, with many extra dates being added mid-way through the run due to the show's popularity.

Ariana began recording songs for her third studio album, originally called *Moonlight*, in 2015.

However, by the time the album was released on 20th May 2016, she had renamed it *Dangerous Woman* and it entered the charts at number two. Ariana began the *Dangerous Woman Tour* to accompany her album in February 2017 – performing across America, Europe, Asia and Oceania and selling over 875,000 tickets.



Charitable Contributions

Ariana's work helping others began at an early age. At the age of 10, Ariana helped to develop a children's singing group called *Kids Who Care*. The group performed at charity events and raised over half a million dollars for good causes in 2007 alone. She has continued to use her fame to promote and raise funds for charitable causes close to her heart. She created a range of cosmetics, donating 100% of the proceeds to charity.

Unfortunately, during Ariana's *Dangerous Woman Tour*, an explosion occurred which took the lives of 22 people and left many others injured. Ariana immediately organised a concert, named *One Love Manchester*. She performed at the concert alongside other musicians, such as Justin Bieber and Katy Perry, and over £15 million was raised to help the victims and their families.

Questions

- Which one of these did Ariana do at the youngest age? Tick one.
 - release the album Yours Truly
 - perform aboard a cruise ship
 - star as Charlotte in the musical 13
 - develop 'Kids Who Care'
 - Order the following statements from 1-5 to show the order they happened. The first one has been done for you.
 - Ariana performed The Honeymoon Tour.
 - The album Dangerous Woman was released.
 - 1 Ariana began writing the album Yours Truly.
 - The album My Everything was released.
 - Ariana performed the Dangerous Woman tour.
 - What was the name of the benefit concert organised by Ariana?

 - Fill in the missing words from this sentence:
Arianna initially called her third album _____ but renamed it _____ before its release.
 - Find and copy a phrase from the text which shows that Yours Truly quickly did well.

 - 'It sold 169,000 copies in its first week and rocketed to number one.' Why do you think that the author used the word 'rocketed' in this sentence?

 - Why do you think that Ariana is so well-liked across the world?

- How is Ariana Grande similar to another celebrity you know?

8. Do you think that Ariana will still be releasing music five years from now? Explain your answer.

Answers

- Which one of these did Ariana do at the youngest age? Tick one.
 - release the album Yours Truly
 - perform aboard a cruise ship**
 - star as Charlotte in the musical 13
 - develop 'Kids Who Care'
- Order the following statements from 1-5 to show the order they happened. The first one has been done for you.
 - 3** Ariana performed The Honeymoon Tour.
 - 4** The album Dangerous Woman was released.
 - 1** Ariana began writing the album Yours Truly.
 - 2** The album My Everything was released.
 - 5** Ariana performed the Dangerous Woman tour.
- What was the name of the benefit concert organised by Ariana?
Accept the answer 'One Love Manchester' only.
- Fill in the missing words from this sentence:
Arianna initially called her third album **Moonlight** but renamed it **Dangerous Woman** before its release.
- Find and copy a phrase from the text which shows that Yours Truly quickly did well.
Accept either of the following phrases:
 - **'was an instant success'**
 - **'straight to number one'**
- 'It sold 169,000 copies in its first week and rocketed to number one.' Why do you think that the author used the word 'rocketed' in this sentence?
Accept answers which discuss that the word was used to emphasise the speed at which the album reached number one, as rockets travel very quickly.
- Why do you think that Ariana is so well-liked across the world?
Accept any reasonable and sensible answer which discusses why Ariana is so well-liked, including (but not limited to):
 - **She is so well-liked because her music is really enjoyable.**
 - **She does a lot of charitable things which people are grateful for.**
 - **She made lots of people happy when they watched her in Victorious.**
- How is Ariana Grande similar to another celebrity you know?
Accept any reasonable comparison to another celebrity of the child's choice.

9. Do you think that Ariana will still be releasing music five years from now? Explain your answer.

Accept either 'yes' or 'no, provided that a reasonable explanation is provided which supports the answer, e.g. 'Yes I think she will because she's done it all of her life and I don't think she will stop now' or 'No she won't because she might have made enough money not to work anymore.'

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Early Life

Ariana Grande-Butera was born to parent Joan Grande and Edward Butera in Boca Raton, Florida, on the 26th June 1993. Joan held the position of Chief Executive Officer at a successful telephone and alarm systems company, whilst Edward owned a graphic design firm in Boca Raton. Ariana's parents, alongside her older brother Frankie, had relocated from New York to Florida shortly before her birth. Ariana's name was inspired by Princess Oriana – a character from the film *Felix the Cat: The Movie*, which had been released a few years before her birth.

As a child, Ariana had a passion for performance. When she wasn't attending the prestigious Pine Crest and North Broward Preparatory Schools – private day and boarding schools - Ariana spent her time at the Fort Lauderdale Children's Theatre. She played the title character Annie in her first ever performance and went on to star in the shows *The Wizard of Oz* and *Beauty and the Beast*.



Rise to Fame

Ariana embarked on her career as a professional entertainer at an early age. At 8 years old, Ariana was already performing in the karaoke lounges aboard cruise ships and with popular orchestras across the state of Florida. She also sang on multiple occasions at the jazz club Birdland in New York City, before making her first national television appearance singing the USA's national anthem, *The Star-Spangled Banner*, at a Florida Panthers ice hockey match.

In 2008, at the tender age of 13, Ariana first appeared on Broadway in the supporting role of cheerleader Charlotte in the musical *13*. Upon joining the cast, Ariana stopped attending North Broward Preparatory School but continued to be sent work from school to complete with her tutors.

In a continuation to her acting career, Ariana secured the role of Cat Valentine in the popular Nickelodeon show *Victorious* in 2009. The show was an overnight success, racking up almost 6 million viewers, and Ariana achieved global fame overnight. Although she loved acting and her role on the show, Ariana's determination to become a professional musician never wavered. She flew across the country to Los Angeles to meet with her managers and explained her plans to make her own R&B album.

Musical Success

Ariana released her first studio album, *Yours Truly*, to the global market on 30th August 2013 after over three years of work. She was credited as a songwriter on numerous album tracks. The album was an instant success, selling 138,000 copies in its first week and going straight to number one on the Billboard 200 albums chart in the USA. *Yours Truly* debuted at the top of the charts internationally – achieving a top 10 position in countries such as the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands and Australia. By April 2014, *Yours Truly* had sold over half a million copies in the US alone and became Ariana's first platinum album.

Ariana immediately commenced work on her second studio album, *My Everything*. When it was released on 25th August 2014, it sold 169,000 copies in its first week and rocketed to number one, just as *Yours Truly* had the year before. In early 2015, Ariana embarked on a series of shows in America, Europe and Asia as part of *The Honeymoon Tour*, with many extra dates being added mid-way through the run due to the show's popularity and success.

Ariana commenced the production of her third studio album, originally entitled *Moonlight*, in 2015. However, by the album's release on 20th May 2016, it had been renamed to *Dangerous Woman* and it entered the charts at number two. Ariana embarked on the accompanying *Dangerous Woman Tour* in February 2017 – performing across America, Europe, Asia and Oceania and selling over 875,000 tickets.



Charitable Contributions

Ariana's work helping others began at an early age. At the age of 10, Ariana co-founded the children's singing group *Kids Who Care*. The group performed at charitable events and raised over \$500,000 for good causes in 2007 alone. She has continued to use her fame to promote and raise funds for charitable causes close to her heart. She created a range of cosmetics, donating 100% of the proceeds to charity.

Unfortunately, during the Manchester date of her *Dangerous Woman Tour*, an explosion occurred which took the lives of 22 fans and left many others injured. Ariana immediately organised a benefit concert, named *One Love Manchester*, which was televised worldwide on 4th June 2017. She performed at the concert alongside other popular musicians, such as Justin Bieber and Katy Perry, and over £15 million was raised to help the victims and their families.

Questions

1. 'Ariana embarked on her career as a professional entertainer.' What does **embarked** mean? Tick one.

- gave up on
 made plans about
 was shouted at
 began

2. Why was Ariana given her name? Tick one.

- She was named after a family pet.
 She was named after a character from a film.
 Her brother Frankie chose her name.
 Her parents chose the name from a book.

3. Ariana commenced the production of her third studio album.' What do you think the word commenced means?

4. Find and copy the names of two celebrities who performed with Ariana at the One Love Manchester concert.

- _____
- _____

5. Find and copy a phrase from the text which shows that Ariana performed at Birdland more than once.

6. Explain why the author has organised this text with sub-headings.

7. Summarise what you have read in paragraphs 3-5 in one sentence.

8. Why might Ariana have begun production on My Everything so soon after releasing Yours Truly?

9. Explain why Ariana organised the One Love Manchester concert.

10. Do you think that Ariana will change careers in the future? Give evidence to support your answer.

Answers

- 'Ariana embarked on her career as a professional entertainer.'** What does **embarked** mean? Tick one.

gave up on

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began
- Why was Ariana given her name? Tick one.

She was named after a family pet.

She was named after a character from a film.

Her brother Frankie chose her name.

Her parents chose the name from a book.
- Ariana commenced the production of her third studio album.' What do you think the word commenced means?

Accept any answer which defines 'commenced' as 'began' or 'started'.
- Find and copy the names of two celebrities who performed with Ariana at the One Love Manchester concert.

Accept the answers Justin Bieber and Katy Perry only.
- Find and copy a phrase from the text which shows that Ariana performed at Birdland more than once.

Accept the answer '(sang on) multiple occasions' only.
- Explain why the author has organised this text with sub-headings.

Accept any reasonable explanation as to the use of subheadings within the text, such as:

 - **To make the text easy to navigate**
 - **To clearly outline what is in each section**
- Summarise what you have read in paragraphs 3-5 in one sentence.

Accept any reasonable summary of the section 'Rise to Fame', provided that it is given in one succinct sentence, such as: 'Ariana started to perform from an early age and took many roles in her journey to becoming a successful singer.'
- Why might Ariana have begun production on My Everything so soon after releasing Yours Truly?

Accept any reasonable answer as to why the production of My Everything began so quickly, including (but not limited to):

 - **Due to the immediate success of Yours Truly**

- **Due to demand for more music from fans**
 - **To make money off the back of the success of her previous album**
 - **To utilise left over songs she had written for her previous album**
9. Explain why Ariana organised the One Love Manchester concert.
Accept any answer which explains that Ariana organised the concert in order to raise money to help the victims of the explosion and their families.
10. Do you think that Ariana will change careers in the future? Give evidence to support your answer.
Accept either 'yes' or 'no', provided that evidence from the text is given in support of the answer, such as:
- **Yes because Ariana has already released three successful albums and may wish to move onto a different venture.**
 - **No because Ariana has been performing since she was 8 years old and she clearly enjoys what she does.**