

**BECAUSE
OF THEM
WE CAN**

BOX

JUST FOR KIDS

BECAUSE OF STEVIE WONDER

ISSUE 6, 9-12



BOTWC MINI POSING AS
STEVIE WONDER



STEVIE WONDER: BORN TO WIN!

DIRECTIONS: READ THE PASSAGE BELOW AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW.



STEVLAND HARDAWAY JUDKINS OR **STEVIE WONDER** WAS BORN ON MAY 13, 1950, IN MICHIGAN. HE WAS BORN SIX WEEKS **PREMATURE** WITH AN EYE DISORDER THAT LED TO BLINDNESS. STEVIE **PERSEVERED** AND DID NOT LET HIS BLINDNESS STOP HIM. HE TOOK ANY OPPORTUNITY HE HAD TO PURSUE HIS LOVE OF MUSIC. HE JOINED HIS LOCAL CHURCH CHOIR AT 8 YEARS OLD AND AT THE AGE OF 9, TAUGHT HIMSELF HOW TO PLAY THE PIANO, HARMONICA, AND DRUMS! WHEN HE WAS 11, HE PERFORMED FOR SMOKEY ROBINSON, ANOTHER FAMOUS AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSICIAN, WHO HELPED HIM JOIN MOTOWN RECORDS

HIS FIRST LIVE ALBUM WAS CALLED "RECORDED LIVE: THE 12-YEAR-OLD GENIUS." THE ALBUM WENT #1 ON THE BILLBOARD CHARTS, MAKING HIM THE YOUNGEST MUSICIAN TO EVER HAVE A #1 ON THE BILLBOARD CHARTS!

WONDER RECEIVED MANY AWARDS BEING RECOGNIZED AS A MUSICAL ICON AND GENIUS. HE WAS THE YOUNGEST SOLO ARTIST EVER WELCOMED INTO THE ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME. THIS AWARD, WHICH IS RARELY GIVEN TO BLACK MUSICIANS, WAS A MAJOR POINT IN HISTORY FOR NOT ONLY STEVIE, BUT FOR BLACK MUSICIANS EVERYWHERE. HE ALSO WON 25 GRAMMY AWARDS, AN ACADEMY AWARD, SOLD OVER 100 MILLION ALBUMS AND EVEN RECEIVED AN AWARD FROM PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA – THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM.



**MAKE
SOME
MUSIC!**

STEVIE USED HIS GIFT OF MUSIC TO HELP OVERCOME MANY **ADVERSITIES** THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE SUCH AS BEING BLIND AND BEING A BLACK MUSICIAN. HIS MUSIC PROMOTED IMPROVING SERVICES FOR THE **DISABLED** AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS. AS A RESULT OF HIS DETERMINATION, HE WAS AWARDED THE UNITED NATIONS MESSENGER OF PEACE FOR HIS **ACTIVISM** AND COMMITMENT TO DISABLED PEOPLE.

AT THE AGE OF 68, STEVIE WONDER'S STAR STILL SHINES BRIGHTLY DUE TO HIS CONSTANT DETERMINATION, DEDICATION, AND PASSION, MAKING HIM VERY ADMIRABLE TO THIS DAY. DESPITE BEING BLIND, STEVIE MANAGED TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN POP, FUNK, SOUL, JAZZ, AND R&B. HIS MUSIC CAN BE HEARD IN ANY SOCIAL SETTING - BIRTHDAY PARTIES, WEDDINGS, COOKOUTS, AND FUNERALS. AS A RESULT OF HIS LENGTHY CAREER, HE HAS A HUGE INFLUENCE ON THE MUSIC THAT CAME AFTER HIM.



READ & ANSWER!

1. WHY IS STEVIE WONDER SO IMPORTANT IN HISTORY? INCLUDE 1-2 PIECES OF EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT YOUR ANSWER.

2. WHAT DOES THE WORD "ADVERSITIES" MEAN IN THIS TEXT? INCLUDE DETAILS FROM THE TEXT TO SUPPORT YOUR ANSWER.

3. STEVIE WONDER WENT THROUGH MANY CHALLENGES IN HIS LIFE, BUT HE STAYED DETERMINED AND SUCCEEDED. WAS THERE A TIME YOU FACED A CHALLENGE ? HOW DID YOU OVERCOME IT?



GLOSSARY

PREMATURE: BORN 3 OR MORE WEEKS EARLY BEFORE DUE DATE

PERSEVERED: CONTINUED EFFORT TO DO OR ACHIEVE SOMETHING DESPITE DIFFICULTIES, FAILURE, OR OPPOSITION

ADVERSITIES: HARDSHIPS, CHALLENGES OR MISFORTUNE

DISABLED: NOT HAVING THE ABILITY TO DO CERTAIN MENTAL OR PHYSICAL TASKS

ACTIVISM: AN ACTION FOR SOME KIND OF SOCIAL CHANGE



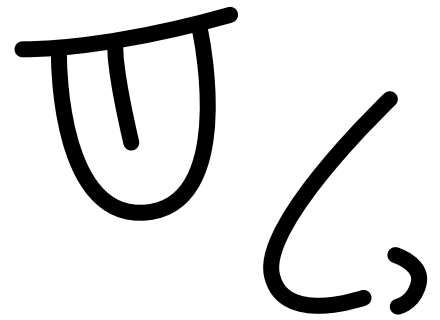
4. WHEN DID STEVIE WONDER MAKE HIS FIRST HIT RECORD?

- A. HE MADE HIS FIRST HIT RECORD WHEN HE WAS TWELVE YEARS OLD
- B. HE MADE HIS FIRST HIT RECORD WHEN HE WAS TWO YEARS OLD
- C. HE MADE HIS FIRST HIT RECORD WHEN HE WENT BLIND
- D. HE MADE HIS FIRST HIT RECORD WHEN HE TRAVELED ALL OVER THE WORLD

5. WHAT IS ONE WORD YOU WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE STEVIE WONDER? WHY?

DID YOU KNOW?

- STEVIE WONDER WAS IN A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT AND LOST TWO IMPORTANT HUMAN SENSES. THE SENSE OF SMELL AND THE SENSE OF TASTE.



- STEVIE WONDER'S "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" SONG IS DEDICATED TO MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. GO TAKE A LISTEN!
- BARACK AND MICHELLE OBAMA'S FAVORITE MUSICIAN IS STEVIE WONDER! THEY HAVE INVITED HIM TO SING AT THE WHITE HOUSE ON MANY OCCASIONS.

WORD SEARCH

CHALLENGE: TIME YOURSELF. CAN YOU FIND ALL THE WORDS IN 2 MINUTES? GOOD LUCK!

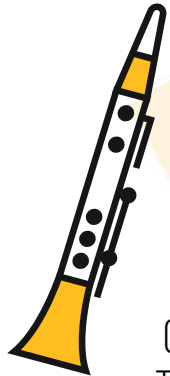
FIND THE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| BLIND | PIANIST |
| DEDICATION | SINGER |
| HARMONICA | STEVIE |
| LEADER | SUNGLASSES |
| LEGEND | WONDER |
| MUSICIAN | |

U	R	K	Y	L	W	M	B	N	I	W	D	A	T	P
V	U	E	G	S	R	V	A	H	T	O	N	C	J	O
F	A	T	D	U	E	I	G	L	Q	N	I	I	X	X
N	H	S	A	A	C	S	E	M	G	D	L	N	V	I
F	N	A	T	I	E	G	S	Y	A	E	B	O	O	Z
C	M	Q	S	E	E	L	R	A	P	R	M	M	E	O
O	B	U	D	N	V	S	H	P	L	M	B	R	O	F
Z	M	Y	D	Y	G	I	M	U	R	G	L	A	A	F
P	I	A	N	I	S	T	E	N	U	N	N	H	F	Z
C	R	E	G	N	I	S	Q	U	T	Q	T	U	O	L
X	I	X	L	X	N	E	I	K	Z	G	B	R	S	Y
N	O	I	T	A	C	I	D	E	D	F	W	J	O	L
E	Q	L	X	S	O	N	P	B	Q	E	H	I	X	K
S	C	Y	O	O	P	H	D	H	G	A	V	Q	I	V
U	U	U	X	K	P	Q	O	X	C	K	R	O	H	R



HAPPY BIRTHDAY BY STEVIE WONDER



[VERSE 1]

YOU KNOW IT DOESN'T MAKE MUCH
SENSE

THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW AGAINST
ANYONE WHO TAKES OFFENSE

AT A DAY IN YOUR CELEBRATION

CAUSE WE ALL KNOW IN OUR MINDS

THAT THERE OUGHT TO BE A TIME

THAT WE CAN SET ASIDE

TO SHOW JUST HOW MUCH WE LOVE YOU

AND I'M SURE YOU WOULD AGREE

IT COULDN'T FIT MORE PERFECTLY

THAN TO HAVE A WORLD PARTY ON THE DAY YOU

CAME TO BE

[HOOK]

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



[VERSE 2]

I JUST NEVER UNDERSTOOD

HOW A MAN WHO DIED FOR GOOD

COULD NOT HAVE A DAY THAT WOULD

BE SET ASIDE FOR HIS RECOGNITION

BECAUSE IT SHOULD NEVER BE

JUST BECAUSE SOME CANNOT SEE

THE DREAM AS CLEAR AS HE

THAT THEY SHOULD MAKE IT BECOME AN ILLUSION

AND WE ALL KNOW EVERYTHING

THAT HE STOOD FOR TIME WILL BRING

FOR IN PEACE OUR HEARTS WILL SING

THANKS TO MARTIN LUTHER KING

[HOOK]

[BRIDGE]

WHY HAS THERE NEVER BEEN A HOLIDAY

WHERE PEACE IS CELEBRATED

ALL THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

[VERSE 3]

THE TIME IS OVERDUE

FOR PEOPLE LIKE ME AND YOU

WHO KNOW THE WAY TO TRUTH

IS LOVE AND UNITY TO ALL GOD'S

CHILDREN

IT SHOULD BE A GREAT EVENT

AND THE WHOLE DAY SHOULD BE SPENT

IN FULL REMEMBRANCE

OF THOSE WHO LIVED AND DIED FOR THE ONENESS

OF ALL PEOPLE

SO LET US ALL BEGIN

WE KNOW THAT LOVE CAN WIN

LET IT OUT DON'T HOLD IT IN

SING IT LOUD AS YOU CAN



[HOOK]

[OUTRO]

WE KNOW THE KEY TO UNIFY ALL PEOPLE

IS IN THE DREAM THAT YOU HAD SO LONG AGO

THAT LIVES IN ALL OF THE HEARTS OF PEOPLE

THAT BELIEVE IN UNITY

WE'LL MAKE THE DREAM BECOME A REALITY

I KNOW WE WILL

BECAUSE OUR HEARTS TELL US SO



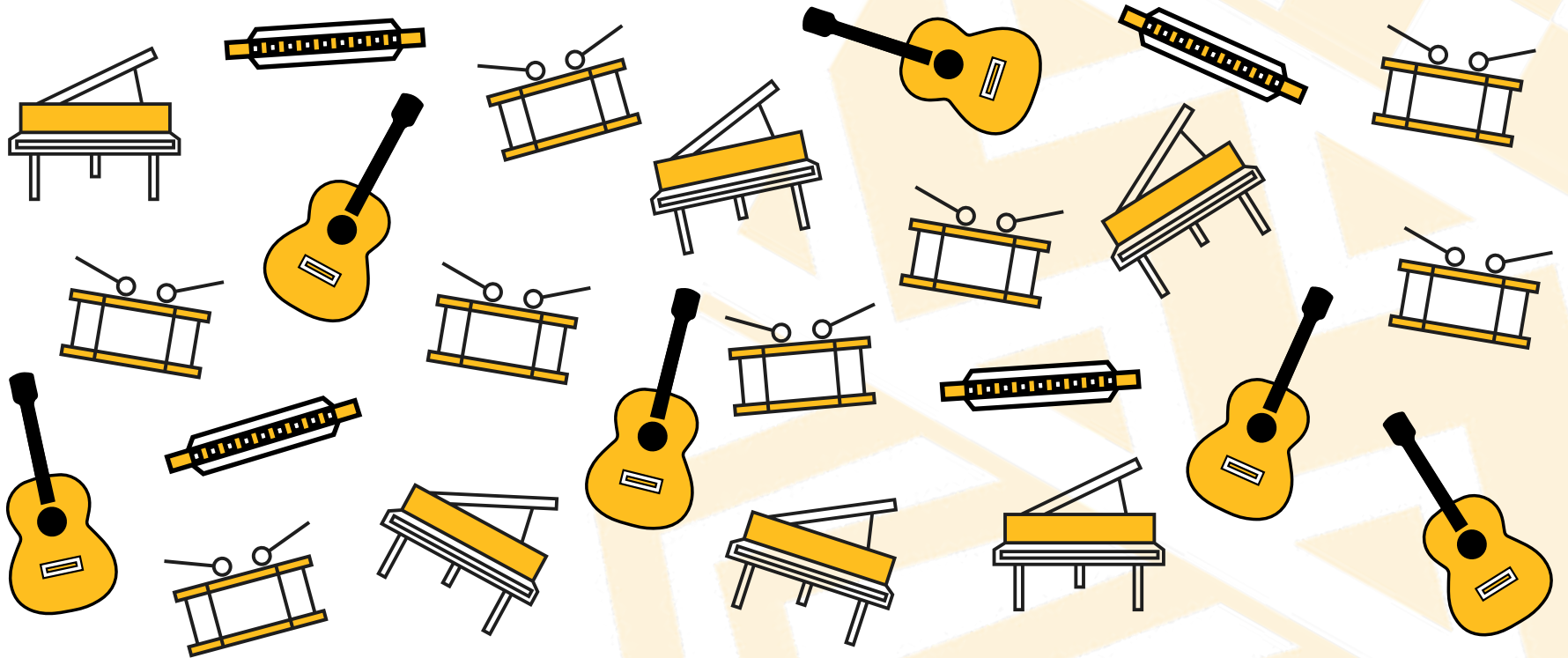
MUSIC CHALLENGE

PLAY YOUR HARMONICA WITH YOUR EYES CLOSED
& RECORD YOUR EXPERIENCE

WHAT WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE LIKE? WHAT CHALLENGES DID YOU FACE?
HOW DID YOU OVERCOME THESE CHALLENGES?



MUSIC FRACTIONS



HOW MANY MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS ARE THERE? _____

WHAT FRACTION OF THE INSTRUMENTS ARE PIANOS? _____

WHAT FRACTION OF THE INSTRUMENTS ARE HARMONICAS _____

WHAT FRACTION OF THE INSTRUMENTS ARE GUITARS? _____

WHAT FRACTION OF THE INSTRUMENTS ARE DRUMS? _____

WHAT FRACTION OF THE INSTRUMENTS ARE PIANOS AND GUITARS? _____

WHAT FRACTION OF THE INSTRUMENTS ARE DRUMS AND HARMONICAS? _____

WHAT FRACTION OF THE INSTRUMENTS ARE GUITARS, DRUMS AND PIANOS? _____

ANSWERS: 24, 6/24, 4/24, 6/24, 8/24, 8/24, 12/24, 12/24, 20/24

TAKE THE PLEDGE

I WILL HONOR
THE SACRIFICES OF
MY ANCESTORS.

I WILL BELIEVE
IN ME.

I WILL PURSUE
MY DREAMS.

I WILL HELP
OTHERS ALONG
THE WAY.