

Elvis Presley gets Presidential Medal of Freedom

19th November, 2018



The legendary rock 'n' roll singer Elvis Presley has been posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, 41 years after his death. Presley is known as the "King of rock and roll". He was one of seven recipients of the award. Other recipients included baseball great Babe Ruth and Supreme Court judge Antonin

Scalia. The Presidential Medal of Freedom is bestowed by the President of the United States and is the highest award that can be given to a civilian. It recognizes those people who have made, "an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors".

Speaking at the awards ceremony on Friday, President Trump said: "America is blessed to have the most skill, passion and talent of anywhere on earth. We are truly a great nation and we're a nation that is doing really, really well right now." The White House described Elvis as, "an enduring American icon". It added: "Presley defined American culture to billions of adoring fans around the world. Fusing gospel, country, and rhythm and blues, the star had created a sound all his own." Elvis is one of the most influential musicians of the 20th century. He is the best-selling solo artist in the history of recorded music. Other musical stars to get the award include Aretha Franklin, Bob Dylan and Stevie Wonder.

Sources: usatoday.com / bbc.com / wikipedia.org

Writing

Normal, non-famous people deserve awards more than famous stars. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

rock 'n' roll / medal / freedom / baseball / judge / award / contribution / peace / ceremony / blessed / passion / talent / nation / culture / billions / gospel / solo

True / False

- a) Elvis Presley was posthumously awarded the medal of freedom. T / F
- b) Elvis Presley's nickname is the "Prince of rock 'n' roll". T / F
- c) A judge and a baseball star also got the medal of freedom. T / F
- d) The Medal of Freedom is awarded to civilians. T / F
- e) President Trump said America has the most talent on Earth. T / F
- f) The White House said Elvis Presley not iconic. T / F
- g) The White House said Elvis Presley confused gospel with country music. T / F
- h) Elvis Presley is the second best-selling solo artist in music history. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. legendary | a. lasting |
| 2. awarded | b. praiseworthy |
| 3. recipients | c. big names |
| 4. meritorious | d. celebrated |
| 5. endeavors | e. important |
| 6. passion | f. admiring |
| 7. enduring | g. efforts |
| 8. adoring | h. gave |
| 9. influential | i. enthusiasm |
| 10. stars | j. beneficiaries |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about Elvis Presley?
- b) What do you think of rock and roll?
- c) Who would you give an award to?
- d) What do you think of the idea of national medals?
- e) Have you ever received an award?
- f) What do you think it's like to be a rock star?
- g) What is the highest award in the world?
- h) What should you get an award for?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. The legendary | a. icon |
| 2. He was one of seven | b. meritorious contribution |
| 3. the highest award that can | c. ceremony |
| 4. people who have made an especially | d. artist |
| 5. national | e. recipients of the award |
| 6. awards | f. fans |
| 7. America is | g. rock 'n' roll singer |
| 8. an enduring American | h. interests |
| 9. billions of adoring | i. be given to a civilian |
| 10. the best-selling solo | j. blessed |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What is the difference between rock and roll, and rock music?
- How blessed is your country?
- Is the USA a truly great nation?
- How has rock 'n' roll changed the world?
- Who is the most influential musician ever?
- How have your musical tastes changed?
- What questions would you like to ask a rock star?

Spelling

- The eedglnyar rock 'n' roll singer
- He was one of seven tcprnieeis
- that can be given to a lianvcii
- It zgecseinro those people
- an especially meritorious onrtbuiincot
- public or private avoneesrd
- Speaking at the awards eernmocy
- have the most skill, psnsioa and talent
- described Elvis as an eindgurn American icon
- Presley edndfei American culture
- billions of riognda fans
- one of the most netiuflinla musicians

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. h	3. j	4. b	5. g
6. i	7. a	8. f	9. e	10. c

Role Play

Role A – Rock 'n' Roll

You think rock 'n' roll is the best music genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): classical, jazz or folk.

Role B – Classical

You think classical is the best music genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): rock 'n' roll, jazz or folk.

Role C – Jazz

You think jazz is the best music genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): classical, rock 'n' roll or folk.

Role D – Folk

You think folk is the best music genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): classical, jazz or rock 'n' roll.

Speaking – Music

Rank these with your partner. Put the best music genres at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| • electronic | • rock 'n' roll |
| • hip-hop | • classical |
| • country | • jazz |
| • ambient | • folk |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.