

Read the article “Island Singer.” Then answer Numbers 1 through 10.

## Island Singer

Evora Cesaria lives on an island in the Atlantic Ocean. The island is one of ten islands called the Cape Verde Islands. They are off the coast of Africa.

Cesaria’s house sits on a cobblestone street in a small town called Mindelo. Cesaria’s childhood home stood here as well. She tore the old house down a few years ago. She needed more space for her 7-year-old granddaughter. She also needed room for her many guests.

Cesaria is not your average grandmother. She is a world-famous singer who has sold more than three million albums. Her fans call her the “Barefoot Diva.” Cesaria earned this nickname by singing without shoes. Cesaria’s friends call her “Cize.”

When Cesaria was seven, her father passed away and Cesaria’s mother had to work hard to support the family. For a while, Cesaria’s grandmother took care of Cesaria and one of her brothers. Cesaria’s other brothers and sisters left the island.

At the age of sixteen, Cesaria got a job. She worked as a seamstress, and as she worked, she sang. People began to notice her lovely voice. A friend talked Cesaria into singing in public. Soon, she was performing in town. She also sang on ships anchored in the bay. Cesaria truly enjoyed singing. She did it for little or no pay.



Cesaria became well-known on her tiny island. She sang traditional Cape Verdean music. The music blended years of island history. Cape Verde was a place of sea travelers and people from many countries. It had its hardships and its joys and the music mixed stories of the good times and the bad times together.

Cesaria's songs were about love, sadness, and life. Cesaria moved as she sang. Her gold necklaces and earrings swayed with her. The songs had a pleasant rhythm. They were steady like the ocean's waves. The songs made people relax and enjoy themselves. Even the sad songs had a kind of gentle joy. Cesaria's voice was rich, warm, and reassuring.

Soon, Cesaria's voice reached beyond the island. People in other countries started to appreciate her music. The French loved Cesaria. A newspaper there had a story about her that said she had "a voice to melt the soul." Cesaria began publishing her songs and putting them on albums. They started getting all kinds of awards.

Pretty soon, Cesaria began touring the world. One year, she performed in 12 countries in just three months. People tried to describe her music. Some said it had a Latin American sound. Others thought it sounded Brazilian or Portuguese. Many said it was like American blues and jazz. In fact, Cesaria's music is simply hard to describe. "It's a lot of things," Cesaria says.

When Cesaria is not touring, she is at home. Her shady porch is her favorite hangout. Neighbors and friends stop to chat with the singing grandmother. There, in the shade, Cesaria passes her day slowly. "I'm happiest here," she says.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

- 1 Read this sentence from the article.

**Her gold necklaces and earrings swayed with her.**

What does the word *swayed* mean in the sentence?

- A. sparkled
- B. moved
- C. traveled
- D. blended

- 2 A seamstress is someone who

- A. teaches dance.
- B. sings for money.
- C. makes clothing.
- D. weaves fabric.

- 3 Which of these BEST describes Cesaria's music?

- A. exciting
- B. calming
- C. lonely
- D. sad

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

4 Read this sentence from the article.

**The songs had a pleasant rhythm.**

What does the word *pleasant* mean in the sentence?

- A. quick
- B. dance
- C. loud
- D. nice

5 Describe where Cesaria lives. Use information and details provided in the article to help you write your answer.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

- 6** What did Cesaria enjoy doing in her spare time?
- A. singing for her granddaughter
  - B. sitting in the shade on her porch
  - C. sewing costumes to wear on tour
  - D. selling her albums on the beach
- 7** Which of these is a FACT in the article?
- A. When Cesaria is not touring, she is at home.
  - B. The songs had a pleasant rhythm.
  - C. Some said it had a Latin American sound.
  - D. Cesaria is not your average grandmother.
- 8** Which of these is the MOST unusual fact about the “island grandmother”?
- A. She has a 7-year-old granddaughter.
  - B. She lives in the same place she grew up.
  - C. She has become known all over the world.
  - D. She got a job when she was 16 years old.
- 9** What caused Cesaria to become a singer?
- A. She read that singers were needed on board ships.
  - B. Her grandmother told her she would be famous one day.
  - C. She needed to make more money to support her family.
  - D. A friend encouraged her to try singing in public.

