

## Quick Check

## Maria Tallchief: Prima Ballerina

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. How did Maria impact the world of ballet?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ She showed the world that women could be stars.</li> <li>Ⓑ She opened the doors of ballet to people of all backgrounds.</li> <li>Ⓒ She inspired young girls to choose ballet over piano.</li> <li>Ⓓ She led the way for her younger sister to become a famous dancer.</li> </ul> <p>2. Why did Maria's family move to Los Angeles when she was young?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ Her parents wanted Maria and her sister to have a better education.</li> <li>Ⓑ Her parents wanted to live on the beach.</li> <li>Ⓒ Her family wanted a change in the weather.</li> <li>Ⓓ Her family wanted to be closer to Maria's aging grandparents.</li> </ul> | <p>3. How were Maria and her sister alike?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ They both had a musical gift.</li> <li>Ⓑ They both moved to New York.</li> <li>Ⓒ They both played the piano as teenagers.</li> <li>Ⓓ They both enjoyed Native American dance routines at county fairs.</li> </ul> <p>4. Which of the following sentences is an example of the authors expressing their opinion about Maria's dancing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ She eventually became the New York City Ballet's first prima ballerina, or leading female dancer.</li> <li>Ⓑ Many of her students later became very successful in the world of ballet.</li> <li>Ⓒ Tallchief danced in a grand yet free way that set her apart from other ballerinas.</li> <li>Ⓓ While Tallchief was with the New York City Ballet, she performed with them in nineteen countries.</li> </ul> |
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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. George Balanchine was a **choreographer** who started working with Maria and the Russian ballet company.  
What is a **choreographer**?
  - Ⓐ a type of dance that uses light leaps and turns
  - Ⓑ a group of artists who work and perform together
  - Ⓒ a person who is the first to do something new or different
  - Ⓓ a person who chooses the style and arrangement of steps and moves for a dance performance
6. What is the main idea of the section "Chicago: Master Teacher"?
  - Ⓐ After retiring from dance, Maria continued making an impact in the world of ballet by opening the Chicago City Ballet and helping many dancers become successful.
  - Ⓑ Maria was born in 1925 in Fairfax, Oklahoma, and was called Betty Marie as a child.
  - Ⓒ Maria received several important awards for her work in the late 1990s, such as the National Medal of Arts, and was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.
  - Ⓓ As the first American prima ballerina, Maria helped inspire a new style of ballet that opened its doors to people of all backgrounds.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

7. Which of the following words best describes Maria's personality?
  - Ⓐ lucky
  - Ⓑ dedicated
  - Ⓒ funny
  - Ⓓ confused
8. What can you infer about the authors' point of view from this book?
  - Ⓐ The authors believe that Europe has the most talented ballerinas in the world.
  - Ⓑ The authors believe that Maria was a graceful dancer who forever changed the world of ballet.
  - Ⓒ The authors believe that Maria deserves much more recognition than she has received.
  - Ⓓ The authors believe that more students should pursue ballet and dedicate themselves like Maria did.
9. Why did Maria found the Chicago City Ballet?
  - Ⓐ She was unhappy with the roles she was receiving in the New York City Ballet.
  - Ⓑ She wanted to continue dancing but stay closer to home.
  - Ⓒ She was told to do so by Balanchine, who founded the New York City Ballet.
  - Ⓓ She felt that Chicago should have a leading ballet company.
10. Maria became Balanchine's greatest source of **inspiration**. Which of the following words means almost the same as **inspiration** in this sentence?
  - Ⓐ ballet
  - Ⓑ happiness
  - Ⓒ dancing
  - Ⓓ influence
11. **Extended Response:** Why should we remember and honor Maria Tallchief?
12. **Extended Response:** What is one lesson you learned from Maria's story that you can apply in your own life? Explain why.

## Quick Check Answer Sheet

## Maria Tallchief: Prima Ballerina

Main Comprehension Skill: Author's Point of View

1. Ⓑ *Elements of a Biography*
2. Ⓐ *Cause and Effect*
3. Ⓐ *Compare and Contrast*
4. Ⓒ *Author's Point of View*
5. Ⓓ *Vocabulary*
6. Ⓐ *Main Idea and Details*
7. Ⓑ *Elements of a Biography*
8. Ⓑ *Author's Point of View*
9. Ⓓ *Cause and Effect*
10. Ⓓ *Vocabulary*
11. Answers will vary but should include a summary of Maria's main achievements in her ballet career as described in the book.
12. Answers will vary but should include a life lesson that can be learned from Maria's story.  
*Sample: After reading about Maria, I learned that she never gave up on her dream to be a famous ballerina, even though there had never been a Native American prima ballerina before. I can apply that in my own life by going after my dreams and never giving up, even if they seem impossible.*