

Name _____

Content



Louis Armstrong

Louis Armstrong was born on the 4th of July in New Orleans, Louisiana. He grew up without a father and he and his sister were raised by his grandmother. When he was 11, Louis quit school. He formed a quartet with three other boys, and they sang in the streets to earn money. He also used to get into trouble. He was arrested and sent to live in a home for troubled boys. He talked the band director into letting him join the band, and that's where he learned to play the cornet, an instrument very much like the trumpet.

Louis Armstrong became one of the greatest jazz cornet players that ever lived. He was also an accomplished composer and singer. His nickname was originally "satchel-mouth", because some people said his mouth was like a satchel because he could hold so much air in his cheeks for blowing the trumpet. But one day someone called him "Satchmo" instead of "Satchel-mouth". Louis like it, and the name stuck. Louis became famous playing the cornet in clubs and on riverboats. He was best known for his ability to improvise, which means to make up music as he plays it. He also sang "scat", which was a style of music in which the singer sings nonsense words instead of real lyrics. Over his career, Louis played in many recordings, and appeared in television shows and movies.

1. What instrument did Louis Armstrong play?

2. How did he make money when he was eleven?

- A. playing the cornet
- B. stealing
- C. singing on the streets
- D. playing in a band

3. How did he get started playing the cornet?

4. How did Louis Armstrong get the nickname "Satchmo"?
