

Name _____

Elvis Presley: The King of Rock 'n' Roll

Short Answer Key

1. Elvis Presley's early exposure to gospel, blues, and country music in the South influenced his musical style by blending elements of these genres into his rock 'n' roll music. The soulful vocals and rhythms of gospel, the emotional depth of the blues, and the storytelling of country music can be heard in his early recordings, creating a unique sound that resonated with audiences.
2. The appearance of Elvis Presley on "The Ed Sullivan Show" in 1956 was significant because it introduced him to a national television audience and catapulted him to stardom. It marked a turning point in his career, as he became a household name, and his energetic performances and charismatic presence made a lasting impression on viewers.
3. Elvis Presley made a successful comeback after his military service by releasing hit songs like "It's Now or Never" and "Are You Lonesome Tonight?" His return to music was marked by a change in his musical style, incorporating elements of pop and ballads. These songs resonated with audiences, and his comeback era marked a new phase in his career.
4. Elvis Presley's live performances, including the 1968 "Comeback Special" and his Las Vegas residency, were characterized by his electrifying stage presence, powerful vocals, and connection with the audience. These shows allowed him to showcase his talent and entertain fans in an intimate setting, reaffirming his status as a legendary performer.
5. The overall impact of Elvis Presley on the music industry and popular culture was profound. He pioneered the rock 'n' roll genre, influencing countless artists and shaping the course of music history. Beyond music, his cultural significance challenged social norms and broke down racial barriers, leaving an enduring legacy.

