

Name _____

Merle Haggard: The Outlaw of Country Music

Short Answer Key

1. Possible Answer: Merle Haggard's troubled upbringing led to early encounters with the law. However, seeing a performance by Lefty Frizzell inspired him to turn his life around and pursue a career in country music.
2. Possible Answer: "Mama Tried" is one of Merle Haggard's chart-topping hits. It reflects the theme of personal responsibility and regret for the mistakes made in life.
3. Possible Answer: Merle Haggard played a pivotal role in the outlaw country movement by challenging the conventions of mainstream country music. His music delved into themes of rebellion, heartache, and social commentary, which was a departure from the polished and traditional country sound of the time.
4. Possible Answer: Merle Haggard faced personal challenges, including battles with addiction and encounters with the law. He managed to overcome these obstacles through determination, rehabilitation, and his passion for music, which remained a driving force in his life.
5. Possible Answer: Merle Haggard's music left an enduring legacy through its raw and honest storytelling. His songs resonated with audiences, and his impact can be seen in the work of subsequent generations of musicians who were inspired by his authenticity and unapologetic approach to country music.

