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SELENA QUINTANILLA



Read the biography of Selena Quintanilla and answer the comprehension questions using the passage for reference.

Selena Quintanilla (April 16, 1971 – March 31, 1995) was a groundbreaking American singer, songwriter, and performer who became one of the most celebrated figures in Latin music. Born in Lake Jackson, Texas, to a Mexican-American family, Selena began performing as a child in her family's band, Selena y Los Dinos. Guided by her father, Abraham, and alongside her brother A.B. and sister Suzette, Selena quickly developed into a talented vocalist and dynamic stage presence.

By her teenage years, Selena was performing Tejano music, a genre that blends Mexican and American influences such as polka, cumbia, and pop. In an industry dominated by male performers, Selena's charisma and powerful voice helped her break barriers. She became widely known as the "Queen of Tejano Music" and brought the genre to mainstream audiences.

Selena achieved major commercial success with albums like Entre a Mi Mundo (1992) and Amor Prohibido (1994), both of which sold millions of copies. In 1994, she made history when she won a Grammy Award for Selena Live! in the category of Best Mexican-American Album, a landmark achievement for a female Tejano artist. Her popularity extended beyond music, as she also launched a clothing line and became a cultural icon admired for her warmth, style, and authenticity.

Her life was tragically cut short in 1995 when she was murdered by Yolanda Saldívar, the former president of her fan club and manager of her boutiques. Despite her brief career, her influence endures. Posthumously, her crossover album Dreaming of You (1995) debuted at number one on the Billboard 200, cementing her place in music history. Her life and legacy continue to inspire new generations, symbolizing the power of talent, perseverance, and cultural pride.

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1 How did Selena's family influence her early music career, and what role did her father and siblings play in her band?

2 Why was Selena's success in Tejano music considered groundbreaking, especially for women in the genre?

3 How did Selena's legacy continue after her death, and what does her story symbolize for future generations?

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