Indiana Takes the Stage

Trace how Indiana people and places shaped entertainment.

IS.5.9 "Identify and examine the impact of Indiana on the entertainment industry."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each connection to Indiana and circle words that show an effect on entertainment. Number the three examples so you can compare their reach.

From Indiana to the Audience

1. Gary, Indiana, was more than a hometown for the Jackson 5. Brothers Jackie, Tito, Jermaine, Marlon, and Michael Jackson practiced and performed together while growing up there. Their father, Joseph Jackson, helped organize the group, which played local shows before reaching a wider audience. After signing with Motown in 1969, the group scored national hits, including "I Want You Back." Their success helped bring a family act formed in an Indiana industrial city to listeners across the country. Gary did not create the Motown sound, but it was the place where this influential group began performing together.

2. Another Indiana connection reached audiences through television. David Letterman was born in Indianapolis and graduated from Ball State University in Muncie. He worked in Indianapolis broadcasting before moving to Los Angeles to pursue comedy. In 1982, he began hosting NBC's Late Night with David Letterman, where oddball segments and playful interviews gave viewers an alternative to more conventional talk shows. He later hosted CBS's Late Show. His Indiana roots and early broadcasting work were part of the path to a long national career. His shows also influenced how later late-night hosts mixed interviews with unusual comedy.

3. Indiana also shaped entertainment by providing places to perform, not only by producing famous people. The Madam Walker Theatre opened in Indianapolis in 1927 as part of a building named for entrepreneur Madam C. J. Walker. At a time when segregation limited opportunities for Black performers and audiences, the theater offered a stage and a gathering place. It presented music, film, and other events in the city's Black cultural community. Unlike a nationwide television show or a hit record, its most direct impact was local: it gave performers a venue and audiences a place to experience entertainment together.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Jackson 5's connection to Gary become part of a national entertainment story?

2. How does the passage connect Letterman's Indiana experience to his later impact on television?

3. Why was the Madam Walker Theatre important to entertainment even though its most direct impact was local?

4. Compare the kinds of entertainment audiences the Jackson 5 and the Madam Walker Theatre reached. What does that difference show about Indiana's impact?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a museum could display one object: a Jackson 5 concert flyer from Gary, a microphone from Letterman's Indianapolis broadcasting work, or a program from the Madam Walker Theatre. Write a 70 to 90 word exhibit label that explains what your chosen object would represent, traces its Indiana connection to an impact on entertainment, and states one thing the object alone could not prove.

Indiana Takes the Stage

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each connection to Indiana and circle words that show an effect on entertainment. Number the three examples so you can compare their reach. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Jackson 5's connection to Gary become part of a national entertainment story?	**The brothers began performing together in Gary, then signed with Motown in 1969 and reached listeners nationwide with hits.**
2	How does the passage connect Letterman's Indiana experience to his later impact on television?	**Letterman worked in Indianapolis broadcasting before his national shows, which offered unusual comedy and influenced later late-night hosts.**
3	Why was the Madam Walker Theatre important to entertainment even though its most direct impact was local?	**During segregation, it provided a stage for performers and a gathering place where audiences could experience music, film, and other events.**
4	Compare the kinds of entertainment audiences the Jackson 5 and the Madam Walker Theatre reached. What does that difference show about Indiana's impact?	**The Jackson 5 reached listeners nationwide through hit records, while the theater mainly served local performers and audiences. Indiana's impact included both national success and local access to entertainment.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

This imagined concert flyer represents the Jackson 5's early performances in Gary, where the brothers grew up and began playing together. Their later Motown hits reached listeners far beyond Indiana, showing how a group with local roots could affect popular music nationwide. The flyer would help visitors picture the group before its national success. By itself, however, it could not prove how many people heard their records or show that Gary caused the group's success.

Accept accurate explanations that distinguish an Indiana connection from an entertainment impact. For Part 3, the stated limit should identify evidence the chosen object alone cannot provide.