



SIR ELTON JOHN

1947-present.



EARLY LIFE AND EDUCATION

Elton John, whose full name is Reginald Kenneth Dwight, was born on 25th March 1947 in the English county of Middlesex, England. His passion for music developed at an early age when, at four years old, he sat in front of a piano and taught himself to play a waltz just by listening to it.

As he was extremely talented, Reginald was offered a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music in London. Although he enjoyed singing in the choir and playing with the other musicians, Reginald dropped out of school at the age of 17. He wanted to pursue a career in pop music so he joined a band called *Bluesology*. His future stage name 'Elton John' was a mix of the names of two *Bluesology* members.

MEETING BERNIE TAUPIN

In 1967, Reginald answered a job advertisement for a songwriter at a record company. Despite being unsuccessful, Reginald met a man called Bernie Taupin who had a talent for writing lyrics but needed someone to compose the melodies. This was Reginald's ideal job. By working together, they could create the music they had dreamed of in just 15 minutes.

After composing songs for other artists for two years, Reginald decided to record the songs himself. This was when he began using his stage name 'Elton John'. His album *Empty Sky*, released in 1969, wasn't as successful as he had hoped; however, his 1970 single *Your Song* launched Elton to superstardom like a rocket.





NOTABLE WORK

Elton met a young boy called Ryan who had been admitted to hospital for AIDS. He inspired Elton to always see the bright side of life. In Ryan's memory, Elton set up the Elton John AIDS foundation to raise money and awareness to fight AIDS. The Queen knighted Elton John in 1998 for his career as the most successful male solo artist in music and his charity work.

LATER LIFE

Elton met his husband David Furnish in 1993. They have two children, born in 2010 and 2013. As he wanted to spend more time with his family, Elton announced he would stop touring in 2018. He is still one of the world's best-loved singers and an icon.



POPULAR SONGS

- Crocodile Rock (1972)
- Don't Go Breaking My Heart (1976)
- I'm Still Standing (1983)
- Can You Feel The Love Tonight (1994)

FIND OUT MORE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c56IJWgrkNE>

<https://littlepeoplebigdreams.com/book/elton-john/>

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS:

1. When was Elton John born?
2. Why did Sir Elton John drop out of school?
3. What was the name of Sir Elton John's song-writing partner?
4. Which song launched Sir Elton John to stardom?
5. When was Sir Elton John knighted?