
Kurt Cobain

WORKSHEET A

Kurt Cobain was one of the most well-known international music stars of the early 1990s, even though he once said, 'famous is the last thing I wanted to be'. Despite his success he suffered from depression and drug addiction, and in 1994 his psychological problems caused him to kill himself. He was only 27 when he died.

Cobain was the lead singer and songwriter of a famous American group called Nirvana, the leaders of a musical movement called 'grunge'. The north-western American city of Seattle became the capital of the grunge scene in the early 1990s. Cobain, who grew up not far from Seattle, was a very musical child and knew he wanted to be in a band from the age of twelve. As a teenager he was interested in art as well as music, and started showing his rebellious side – for example he hated sport, even though he was good at it, and whenever he had to play baseball he deliberately played badly in the hope that the coach would not select him again.

He formed Nirvana in 1987 with Krist Novoselic, a bass guitarist, and Dave Grohl, a drummer. By 1990 the band was already famous, and in 1991 they produced their most successful album, *Nevermind*, which sold 24 million copies worldwide.

People talked about Cobain as the 'voice of a generation' because his music was so popular with teenagers and young people who felt society did not understand them. Indeed, grunge music generally expressed feelings of anger or unhappiness: it was powerful and original, but few people would say it was cheerful.

Cobain had a famously difficult relationship with the American singer and actress Courtney Love, who he married in 1991. The couple had a daughter, Frances Bean, whose unusual second name comes from the fact that Cobain thought she looked like a bean when he first saw an ultrasound image of her during Love's pregnancy.

Kurt Cobain

WORKSHEET B

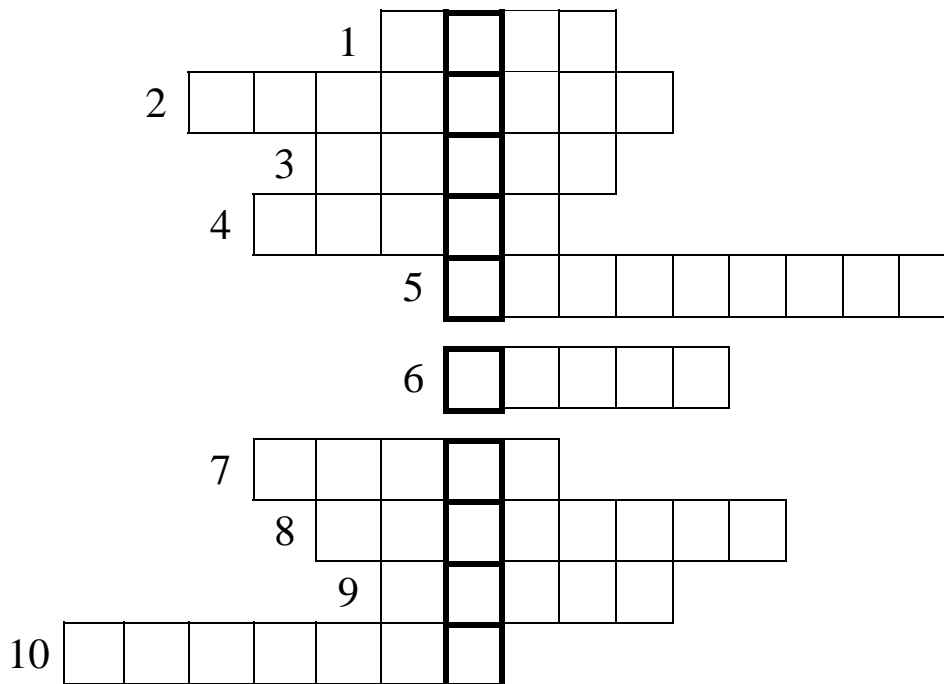
A

Say whether you think the following statements are true (T) or false (F)?

1. Cobain always hoped to become an international music star.
2. *Nevermind* sold more copies than Nirvana's other albums.
3. Cobain formed Nirvana when he, Krist Novoselic and Dave Grohl were 25 years old.
4. Courtney Love is not interested in music.

B

Fill the gaps below to complete the crossword and reveal the three words that make up the title of one of Nirvana's most famous songs.



1. Kurt Cobain's relationship with Courtney Love was not an _____ one.
2. As a teenager, Cobain hated _____.
3. Cobain _____ Nirvana's songs.
4. *Nevermind* was the _____ Nirvana produced in 1991.
5. Millions of _____ loved Nirvana's music.
6. There was a lot of _____ in grunge music.
7. _____ were a serious problem in Cobain's life.
8. Not many people would say grunge was cheerful music, but it was _____.
9. Dave Grohl played the _____.
10. Cobain's daughter has an _____ second name.