

# A Musical Pioneer (150L)

1<sup>st</sup> grade

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

In the world of **classical music**, most **conductors** are men. And there are few **conductors** of color. But South Africa's Ofentse Pitse **stands out**. She's a young, black, female conductor. What do you think?

People who are willing to stand out help to bring about change.

- Do you agree or disagree?

### Speaking Sentence Starter

I agree that people who stand out can change things because . . . . .

OR

I disagree that people who stand out can change things because . . . . .



Photo credit: Courtesy Ofentse Pitse  
This is a photo of Ofentse Pitse. Pitse is the conductor of Anchored Sound.

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

**JOHANNESBURG, South Africa** (Achieve3000, January 14, 2020). Meet Ofentse Pitse. She's 27. She lives in South Africa. She leads Anchored Sound. What's that? An **orchestra** and **choir**. They play **classical** music. She started the group.

Why did Pitse start Anchored Sound? To change young people's lives. First, she picked great singers. This was in 2017. Where did they live? In poor communities.

In 2019, she started the orchestra. She's the conductor.

Pitse is a **pioneer**. Most **conductors** are men. And there are few **conductors** of color. Pitse is a young black woman. So she **stands out**.

Anchored Sound plays songs by African **composers**. Why? Pitse hopes to bring African **classical music** to the world.

### Dictionary

**choir** (*noun*) a group of singers especially in a church

**conductor** (*noun*) a person who stands in front of people while they sing or play musical instruments and directs their performance

**orchestra** (*noun*) a group of musicians who play usually classical music together and who are led by a conductor

**pioneer** (*noun*) a person who helps create or develop new ideas, methods, etc.

**classical** (adjective) a type of art or music that has been respected (liked) for a long time

**composer** (noun) a person who writes music

## Vocabulary Matching

Draw a line from the vocabulary word to the definition.

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 1. choir     | • a type of art or music that has been respected (liked) for a long time                |
| 2. classical | • a person who helps create or develop new ideas or methods                             |
| 3. composer  | • a person who stands in front of people and directs them while they sing or play music |
| 4. conductor | • to be different from everyone else  |
| 5. orchestra | • a group of singers  |
| 6. pioneer   | • a group of musicians who play classical music together                                |
| 7. stand out | • a person who writes music   |

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ Pitse leads an orchestra and choir.
- Ⓑ Pitse is only 27 years old.
- Ⓒ There are few conductors of color.
- Ⓓ Most conductors are men.

#### Question 2

Think about the Article. The reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Pitse was not born in South Africa
- Ⓑ Pitse lives in a poor community
- Ⓒ Pitse has written classical music
- Ⓓ Pitse wants to help other people

#### Question 3

Which means almost the **same** as *conductor*?

- Ⓐ user
- Ⓑ singer
- Ⓒ driver
- Ⓓ leader

#### Question 4

Which is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ when Pitse started her choir
- Ⓑ why Pitse loves classical music
- Ⓒ why Pitse started Anchored Sound
- Ⓓ when Pitse put together an orchestra

#### Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.  
**People who are willing to stand out help to bring about change.**

#### Speaking Sentence Starter

I changed my mind because .....

OR

I didn't change my mind because .....

#### Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

reporter ( <i>noun</i> )	someone who asks questions and writes news stories for a newspaper
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Imagine you are a reporter who is speaking with Ofentse Pitse. What questions might you ask her? What might her answers be? Include information from the Article, as well as vocabulary terms and describing words, in your answer.

Me: Ms. Pitse, why did you start  
Anchored Sound?

Ms. Pitse: I wanted to change  
young people's lives.

Me:

Ms. Pitse:

## Ancient Lines in the Sand (150L)

### Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

In Southern Peru, there are big ground drawings. They're in the desert sand. They were put there more than 1,500 years ago. But scientists aren't sure what they were for. What do you think?

Some things should stay a secret.

- Do you agree or disagree?

#### Speaking Sentence Starter

I agree that some things should stay a secret because . . . . .

OR

I disagree that some things should stay a secret because . . . . .



Photo credit: Daniel Prudek/Shutterstock

A monkey geoglyph is seen from above. It's one of the many ground drawings known as the Nazca Lines.

### Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

**NAZCA, Peru** (Achieve3000, January 3, 2020). You're in an airplane. It's flying over southern Peru. You look out the window. What's below? Ground drawings! They're called **geoglyphs**. They're in the desert sand. They're of animals, plants, and more.

These **geoglyphs** are called the Nazca Lines. They've been around for more than 1,500 years. They're *big*! And there are many of them. But people didn't find them until 1927. A scientist saw some. Today, tools such as **drones** have found more **geoglyphs**.

Who made the **geoglyphs**? The Nazca people. How? By taking away some rocks that covered the ground. This showed the lighter sand underneath.

But what were **geoglyphs** for? Researchers aren't sure. But they think they were used in **rituals**.

#### Dictionary

**drone** (*noun*) a type of small aircraft that flies without a pilot

**research** (*verb*) to study (something) carefully

**ritual** (*noun*) an act or series of acts done in a particular situation and in the same way each time

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ The Nazca Lines are drawings in the sand.
- Ⓑ The Nazca Lines weren't found until 1927.
- Ⓒ The geoglyphs have been around for many years.
- Ⓓ The geoglyphs might have been used in rituals.

#### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

*An opinion tells what a person thinks or feels. Others may not think this is right.*

- Ⓐ It's very interesting to study the Nazca Lines.
- Ⓑ The Nazca people made the lines long ago.
- Ⓒ Drones have found some of the geoglyphs.
- Ⓓ The lines show animals, plants, and more.

#### Question 3

The Article says:

**What's below? Ground Drawings! They're called geoglyphs. They're in the desert sand. They're of animals, plants, and more.**

This helps the reader to know \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ what the Nazca Lines look like
- Ⓑ that finding the lines is not easy
- Ⓒ why the Nazca Lines were made
- Ⓓ that animals live in the desert

#### Question 4

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ think and see
- Ⓑ flying and driving
- Ⓒ desert and ground
- Ⓓ lighter and darker

**Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)**

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.  
**Some things should stay a secret.**

**Speaking Sentence Starter**

I changed my mind because .....

**OR**

I didn't change my mind because .....

**Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)**

Give three reasons why the Nazca Lines are interesting to visit and/or study? What's left to know about them?  
Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.

One reason the Nazca Lines are interesting is they are a mystery.

Another reason they are interesting is

Finally, they are interesting because

# Answer Key

## Vocabulary Matching

Draw a line from the vocabulary word to the definition.

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|--------------------|---|
| 1. choir           | • music written by composers such as Beethoven and Bach                                 |
| 2. classical music | • a person who helps create or develop new ideas or methods                             |
| 3. composer        | • a person who stands in front of people and directs them while they sing or play music |
| 4. conductor       | • to be different from everyone else  |
| 5. orchestra       | • a group of singers  |
| 6. pioneer         | • a group of musicians who play classical music together                                |
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Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

- A Pitse leads an orchestra and choir.
- B Pitse is only 27 years old.
- C There are few conductors of color.
- D Most conductors are men.

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