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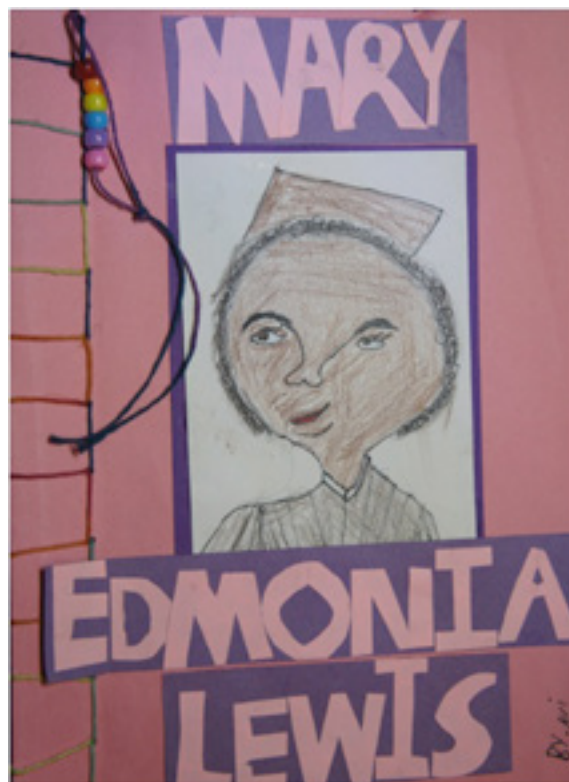
Mary Edmonia Lewis & Ella Fitzgerald

by Avi Thomas

Mary Edmonia Lewis

Mary Edmonia Lewis was born on July 4, 1845. She was the first African American and Native American woman to be a famous sculptor in the world of fine arts. When Lewis was nine both her parents died and she went to live with her aunt. She lived with her aunt for the next three years. They sold Ojibwe baskets and other crafts to tourists. Her brother paid for her to go to the New York Central College. Lewis did not learn English very well, and she transferred to Oberlin in Ohio. Her work sold for a lot of money. She had many popular art shows as she became famous. Her art was seen all over the world. She created a 3,015 pound marble statue of the death of Cleopatra. The statue drew thousands of viewers. After it was put in storage the statue was lost. 120 years later it was found in an auction donated to the Smithsonian American Art Museum. It was speculated that Edmonia died in Rome, but later it was discovered she died in London, England in 1911. She never had children and never married. She is on the list of 100 greatest African Americans. □

Written by 7 year-old girl.



Ella Fitzgerald

Ella Fitzgerald was born in 1917. Ella Fitzgerald was one of the best jazz singers in jazz history. She was known for her singing, which was high and low. She was famous because of her scat singing. Ella Fitzgerald's dad died when she was little. She and her mom Tempie moved to New York. When Ella was young she used to be called snake hips because she was a good tap dancer. In 1935 Ella Fitzgerald won a talent show for singing in New York. In the 10th grade Ella left school. After she won the talent show, her mom died in a car crash. After Ella's mom died, she went to live with her aunt in Virginia. She got a job in a big band. Ella sang in the Harlem neighborhood in New York City. Ella Fitzgerald made her own song, "A-Tisket A-Tasket," with her band. She was 18 when she made it famous. Ella and her band flew around the country. Ella and her band traveled in the South. She wasn't allowed in places because she was Black. The leader Chick Web died and Ella became the leader of the band. She led the band until 1942 and then she did a solo. Ella Fitzgerald started scat singing and be bopping when she was singing solo. Ella Fitzgerald died in 1996. □

Written by 8-½ year-old girl.

