

Name _____

TALLCHIEFS: OSAGE BALLET LEGENDS

Review Questions



1. Define ballet: **an artistic dance form performed to music using precise, formal set steps and gestures**
2. The chief female dancer in a ballet or ballet company is known as the **prima ballerina**.
3. What do we call the person who plans and arranges the steps, movements, and patterns of all the dancers? **choreographer**



4. **Maria Tallchief** was the oldest of the two sisters of Osage descent who became famous ballerinas in the 20th century.
5. Maria was born in the year **1925** in the Oklahoma town of **Fairfax**, but the family moved to **Los Angeles**, California when she was young.
6. What did this move show about the Tallchief parents' attitude about their daughters' talents? **They believed the girls had great talent, and potential careers in dance/music**
7. What famous choreographer did Maria marry? **George Balanchine**
8. What important ballet company did he co-found - of which Maria was the first star? **New York City Ballet**
9. What role established Maria as a prima ballerina? **Firebird**
10. After retiring from dancing, Maria became a **director** of ballet in Chicago.
11. Tell one of the many honors Marie received: **(varies) Hall of Fame, Medal of Arts, Kennedy Center**



12. Maria's younger sister **Marjorie (Tallchief)** was born in the year **1926** and was also a famous, accomplished ballerina.
13. Tell two of the ballet companies Marjorie performed in: **(varies-any 2: American Ballet Russe, Grand Ballet Marquis, Ruth Page Chicago Opera, Harkness**
14. Two of her famous roles: **any 2: Night Shadow, Annabel Lee, Idylle, Romeo & Juliet, Giselle**
15. What was one of her honors? **(varies) danced for heads of state, Oklahoma Hall of Fame, U of Oklahoma Distinguished service.**
16. The Tallchief sisters were among five dancers of Indian heritage who became famous in the 20th century and were known as the **Oklahoma Indian Ballerinas**.