

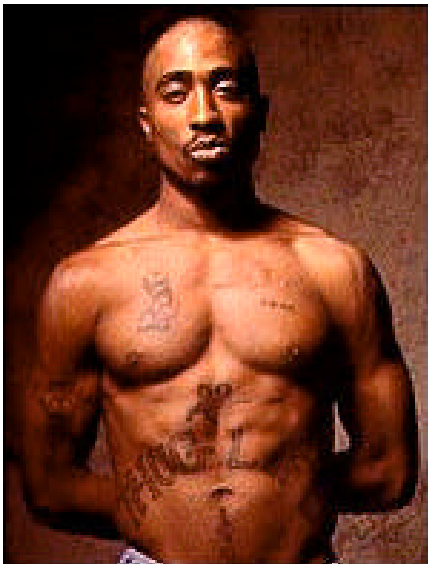
## **The Life and Death of Tupac Shakur**

Tupac Shakur was born on June 16, 1971 in the Bronx, in New York City. From childhood everyone called him the "Black Prince." Tupac never knew his father, and when he asked his mother about him she would say 'I don't know who your daddy is.' Tupac's childhood was very tough. When he was two, his sister, Sekyiwa, was born, but Sekyiwa's father, Mutulu, was sent to jail for sixty years for armed robbery.



With Mutulu in prison, Tupac's family experienced hard times. They were very poor and no matter where they moved - the Bronx, Harlem, or homeless shelters - Tupac was distressed. "I remember crying all the time. My major problem growing up was that I couldn't fit in. Because I was from everywhere I didn't have any buddies that I grew up with."

As a boy Tupac was very lonely, and he used to pass the time by writing love songs and poetry. "I remember I had a book like a diary. And in that book I said I was going to be famous." Tupac wanted to be an actor. For Tupac acting was an escape from his lonely life, and he was very good at it. "The reason why I was good at acting was because it is easy to get out of who I am and go into being somebody else."



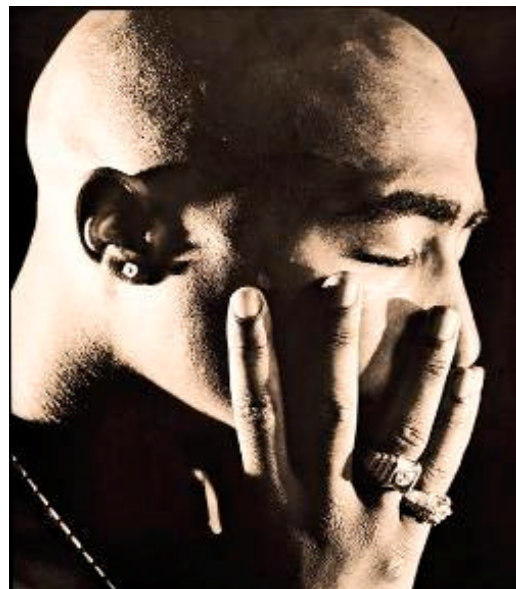
After moving to Baltimore at the age of fifteen Tupac began to rap. He started writing lyrics and walking like a gangster. Because Tupac was from New York people thought he was cool, and he called himself MC New York and made people think he was a tough guy.



Tupac started going to school at the famous Baltimore School for the Arts, where he studied acting and ballet with white kids and finally felt happy for the first time. “I loved going to school” says Tupac, “It taught me a lot. I was starting to feel like I really wanted to be an artist.”

By the time Tupac was 21 he had already become a very successful rapper. But in 1992 Tupac released his first solo album *2Pacalypse Now*, which put Tupac on the road to fame. That same year he starred in a gangster film called *Juice*. In 1993, he recorded and released *Strictly 4 My N.I.G.G.A.Z.*, an album that was very popular on the pop charts.

In November of 1994, Tupac was shot five times during a robbery in which thieves stole \$40,000 worth of his jewelry. Tupac recovered from his injuries to make his best music ever, including the 1995 album *Me Against the World*, which sold two million copies, and the double-CD *All Eyez on Me*, which sold nearly three million. Just as Tupac was reaching the height of his fame and fortune he was shot and killed in Las Vegas after watching a Mike Tyson fight. Tupac’s death was a great shock to his friends and fans. While Tupac often said that he expected to die before he was thirty, he still lives on through his music.



What did everybody call Tupac when he was a kid? \_\_\_\_\_

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Can you describe what Tupac's childhood was like? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why was acting easy for Tupac? \_\_\_\_\_

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What did Tupac study at the Baltimore School for the Arts? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why was Tupac shot in 1994? \_\_\_\_\_

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When he was a kid Tupac wanted to be an actor. What do you want to be when you grow up? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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