Name: Date:

**Trevor Noah: A Short Biography**

**Directions**. Please actively read the following information on Trevor Noah using the I’s &/or C’s Method. By the conclusion of the reading, you should have five I’s &/or C’s with comments. **Remember:** “I” stands for Interesting and “C” stands for confusing.

**Who is Trevor Noah?**

Born on February 20, 1984 in Soweto, South Africa, Trevor Noah went on to become one of the top stand-up comedians in his country, touring in the United States and internationally as well. After having made appearances on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* and *The Late Show with David Letterman,* Noah also became a correspondent on the popular *Daily Show with Jon Stewart*. Upon Stewart announcing his departure from the show in 2015, Noah was named as his replacement.

**Background and Early Career**

Trevor Noah was born during the throws of Apartheid to a Black Xhosa mother and a White Swiss-German father. The couple’s Union was illegal due to the country’s discrimination system, which officially sponsored racial oppression and segregation. Nonetheless, Noah’s parents secretly maintained their relationship for a time. Some of his experiences growing up would become the subject of Noah’s comedic work, which would often look at the racial dynamics of his native country.

Having appeared in a Soap Opera in his late teens Noah started to hone his chops as a comedian in his 20’s, taking to the comedy stage due to a dare from his friends. His skill and talent blossomed, and Noah became one of the leading figures of stand-up comedy in Africa. Noah’s peers noted that the young performer, who can speak several languages fluently and imitate accents effortlessly, had big ambitions for his career.

**International Stand-Up Star**

In 2009, Noah helmed his on one-man show, *The Daywalker*, which was also filmed as a documentary, and hosted The South African Music Awards. In 2010, the comedian’s own talk show, *Tonight with Trevor Noah*, debuted.

After performing stand-up in the United States, Noah staged another one-man show, *The Racist*, at the 2012 Edinburgh Fringe Festival. That year he also made his U.S. TV debut on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, becoming the first African comedian to appear on the program. The following year, Noah had his own comedy special on Showtime, *Trevor Noah: African American*. In late 2014, Noah landed yet another major gig, debuting as a correspondent for Comedy Cenral’s *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*.

**Appointed ‘Daily Show’ Host**

After Stewart announced in February 2015 that he would be leaving The Daily Show, it was revealed in March that Noah would be his replacement. Noah had appeared on the program three times previously.

Questions surfaced about how the show might change with a fresh, international host taking the anchor seat. Controversy also surrounded some of Noah’s previous Twitter posts, which contained jokes that could be considered offensive to women and the Jewish community. Rumors also arose that he poached material from other stand-up comics. Nonetheless, Comedy Central executives announced that they were sticking with their decision.

*The Daily Show with Trevor Noah* made its debut on September 28, 2015, with fellow comedian Kevin Hart as the first guest. The following year, Noah released his autobiography *Born a Crime*, which became a *New York Times* Bestseller.

While viewership of *The Daily Show* was generally below that of the peak days of the uber-popular Stewart, Comedy Central saw enough positive signs from the new host to sign him to a five-year extension in September 2017. Noah subsequently released a statement in which he joked, “it’s really exciting to renew this contract for either five more years or until Kim Jong-Un annihilates us all—whichever one comes first.”