

# Sesame Street



*Sesame Street* is a children’s educational television show. It is popular in many countries. One of the reasons for the show’s success is because of the way it is made. A company called Children’s Television Workshop (now called “Sesame Workshop”) started making *Sesame Street* in 1969. The show’s producers (the people who made the show) worked together with teachers and researchers. They also tested the show’s content by asking children what they thought of **it**. Everyone worked together to make the show in this special way.

Because of this, *Sesame Street* is very unique. The music for the show is based on the music used for television commercials. This is because the show’s producers noticed that children seemed to like the music they heard on TV. Another thing that has made *Sesame Street* different from other children’s television shows is that it takes place in a city. This is because the show has tried to connect with low-income children living in urban areas who watch it. These children are more likely to watch the show if they see people and places that **resemble** their own neighborhoods.

*Sesame Street* has also tried to **address** some very serious topics. An actor who played one of the show’s most popular characters died in 1982. Soon after, *Sesame Street* had an episode that talked about how children **cope with** death. It tried to look at the feelings that people have when someone close to **them** dies. In 2002, *Sesame Street* introduced a puppet named “Kami” who had HIV/AIDS in the South African version of the television show. Many people supported the idea while others opposed it.



1. According to the article, what is one reason why *Sesame Street* has been successful?
  - a) because it is very funny
  - b) because it has no music
  - c) it is the same as other shows
  - d) because of how it is made
  
2. The word “it” in paragraph 1 refers to:
  - a) content
  - b) children
  - c) tests
  - d) thoughts
  
3. According to the article, why does *Sesame Street* base its music on television commercial music?
  - a) because children seem to like it
  - b) because it is more educational
  - c) because it helps to sell things
  - d) because it is very boring
  
4. The word “resemble” in paragraph 2 could best be replaced with:
  - a) build up
  - b) are different from
  - c) look similar to
  - d) are the opposite of
  
5. The word “address” in paragraph 3 is closest in meaning to:
  - a) send
  - b) forward
  - c) direction
  - d) focus on
  
6. According to the article, what happened when *Sesame Street* introduced a puppet that had HIV/AIDS?
  - a) everyone was pleased
  - b) nobody liked the idea
  - c) the actors quit the show
  - d) some people were unhappy
  
7. The phrase “cope with” in paragraph 3 could be replaced with:
  - a) believe
  - b) understand
  - c) research
  - d) reduce
  
8. The word “them” in paragraph 3 refers to:
  - a) children
  - b) episodes
  - c) TV shows
  - d) puppets

Answers: 1. (d) 2. (a) 3. (a) 4. (c) 5. (d) 6. (d) 7. (b) 8. (a)

