Name: _____ Date: _____

Ten Eras, One Night

Reading level 8 (4th grade) · 735 words

Picture a stadium at night. The lights go up, and a woman walks out on a very long stage. This is a show from the Eras Tour, which Taylor Swift played from March 2023 to December 2024. On average, about 67,000 people came to each one. Behind the music was a lot of planning, and this book follows it.

A show was long. A usual night ran more than three hours. In that time she sang 44 to 46 songs. That is a lot of breath, a lot of words to remember, and a lot of walking. A show like that does not just happen on the night. She had to get ready long before.

The show was split into ten parts called acts. Most acts showed one era of her music, and an era usually means one album. One act was a short set of surprise songs. Two sister albums shared one act. One act had lit-up bikes. Another had a mossy house in the woods.

The stage itself was big. It was really three stages joined by a wide ramp. The main stage had a giant curved screen. In the middle was a diamond-shaped stage, and the third was shaped like the letter T. The ramp joined them, so she could move from one stage to the next.

She was not alone up there. A band of six played live, and four backing singers sang with her. Fifteen dancers moved across the stages. Together they filled three stages with sound and motion. A show this big needs many people working as one team, and each one has a job.

Then there is the matter of moving it all. The stage, the props, and the costumes rode in trucks from city to city. One early report said about 90 trucks. Later, a person who knew the show said the number was closer to 50. The two reports do not match, so no one number is certain.

Swift trained for months. Six months before the first show, she began to run on a treadmill while she sang the whole list of songs out loud. Then she took three months of dance classes. She said she wanted to get the show into her bones.

The reason was simple. She wanted to be so well rehearsed that she could be silly with the fans and still not lose her place. When you know the show by heart, you can stop and laugh at a joke. Practice gave her room to play.

Each night had a surprise. In the acoustic set, she played two songs that fans did not know were coming. One was on an acoustic guitar. The other was on a piano. Over the whole tour she played nearly every song she had ever put out, so many different songs filled those two spots.

Before any stage was built, each of those songs had to be written. Swift sorts her lyrics into three kinds, and she named them with pens. Quill lyrics use old-fashioned words. Fountain

pen lyrics tell a modern story with a poetic twist. Glitter gel pen lyrics are frivolous, carefree, and bouncy. She explained this in an award speech in 2022.

The acts came from a long list of albums. Her first one, called Taylor Swift, came out on October 24, 2006. By the time the tour began in 2023 she had put out ten studio albums. An eleventh came out in 2024, and a new act was added for it. That is a lot of songs to choose from for one night.

The first show took place on March 17, 2023, in Glendale, Arizona. After that, she played show after show. The last was number 149. Her touring company told a newspaper that 10,168,008 people came to the whole tour. That is more than ten million people.

Many people who could not go still got to watch. A film of the Los Angeles shows came out in theaters on October 13, 2023. A second film, of the final show in Vancouver, came to Disney+ on December 12, 2025. In both, you can see the stages that you read about here.

The last night was Sunday, December 8, 2024. It was at B.C. Place, a stadium in Vancouver, Canada. It was the 149th show, and it was filmed. Every of those nights began the same way, with songs that had already been written.

Questions

1. About how long was a usual Eras Tour show?

A. Under one hour
B. More than three hours
C. Eight hours

2. Why did Swift rehearse for months?

A. To be ready to play and joke
B. The stadium needed six months to open
C. She had not written the songs yet

3. In this book, what is an era?

A. A kind of truck
B. A part of the stage
C. Usually one album of hers

4. Where did the final show take place?

A. Glendale, Arizona
B. Vancouver, Canada
C. Los Angeles

5. What did she play for the two surprise songs?

A. A drum and a flute
B. Two songs on a piano

C. One on acoustic guitar and one on piano

6. Why does the book say no one number for the trucks is certain?

A. Two reports gave different numbers

B. No trucks were used

C. The trucks were counted twice by the film

Words to know

era: time period

ramp: sloped path

rehearsed: practiced

acoustic: not electric

surprise: unexpected thing

Answer key: Ten Eras, One Night

1. B. More than three hours
2. A. To be ready to play and joke
3. C. Usually one album of hers
4. B. Vancouver, Canada
5. C. One on acoustic guitar and one on piano
6. A. Two reports gave different numbers