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CHAPTER 1

EARLY LIFE

WHO IS ARIANA GRANDE?

Ariana Grande was born in June 1993. The singer's full name is Ariana Grande-Butera. Her family is of Italian American heritage. She is from Boca Raton, Florida. It is about an hour north of Miami. Ariana's name came from a character named Princess Oriana in *Felix the Cat: The Movie*.



WHO IS CAMILA CABELLO?

Camila Cabello is a good friend of Ariana. When she was born, her parents named her Karla Camila Cabello Estrabao. This was in March 1997. The pop star is of Cuban and Mexican heritage. Her birthplace is Cojímar, Cuba. As a child, she spent time in both Havana and Mexico City. When the future star was six, she moved to Florida. Her family still lives in Miami.



THE GRANDE FAMILY



Before she was born, Ariana's parents lived in New York City. Edward Butera is her father. He is a graphic designer from New Jersey. Ariana's mother is Joan Grande. Joan is CEO of a communication and alarm system company. She is from Brooklyn. When Ariana was young, the couple divorced. This has made the star feel torn between her parents. "Even years later, I'm still in the middle," she told *Billboard*.

New York City,
New York



Camila with
her mother

THE ESTRABAO FAMILY

Camila's father, Alejandro, is from Mexico. Sinuhe, her mother, is Cuban. When Camila was six, her mother said they were going to Disney World. Instead, the two emigrated from Mexico. They spent a day in a holding center in Texas. Then, after a 36-hour bus ride, they arrived in Miami. A friend took them in. After more than a year, Alejandro came to Florida. Camila became a U.S. citizen in 2008.

Frankie Grande

AN ENTERTAINING BROTHER

Ariana grew up with an older half-brother. Frankie was the first performer in the family. His musical theater career took him to Broadway in 2007. In 2014, he was a contestant on the reality TV show *Big Brother*. He has worked as both a performer and a producer. As a child, Ariana enjoyed watching him. Now the two support each other's careers.

SINGING SISTERS

Camila grew up with a sibling too. Her younger sister is Sofia Cabello. Sofia was born in 2007. Like Camila, she enjoys singing. Fans often see the two talk on social media. The sisters sing together, and Camila posts Sofia's pictures. They sometimes perform covers of *High School Musical* songs. On TikTok, Sofia often lip-syncs to Camila's songs.



A WEIRD LITTLE GIRL

Ariana told *Billboard* she was “a very weird little girl.” She had her own interests. For example, she liked to wear skeleton face paint even when it wasn’t Halloween. For one birthday, the singer had a *Jaws*-themed party. Her friends were scared of the decorations, she said.





LEARNING ENGLISH

When Camila arrived in Miami, she felt different too. She spoke no English at all. Cartoons helped her learn. “I never thought about it when I was little, but there is something shocking about moving to a new country and not speaking the language,” she said to the *Guardian*. On her first day of school, the six-year-old was asked if she spoke English. Her answer was yes. The truth was, Spanish was her only language.

