

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## CHAPTER 1

Early Life ..... 4

## CHAPTER 2

Intro to Music ..... 16

## CHAPTER 3

Rise to Success ..... 28

## CHAPTER 4

Stardom ..... 40

## CHAPTER 5

Influences and Collaborations ..... 52

## CHAPTER 1

# EARLY LIFE

## WHO IS KENDRICK LAMAR?

Kendrick Lamar is a rapper, songwriter, and producer. His full name is Kendrick Lamar Duckworth. He was born in Compton, California, on June 17, 1987. Paula and Kenny Duckworth are his parents. Three years before Kendrick was born, his parents moved to Compton from Chicago, Illinois. The couple wanted to escape violence and gangs. Compton turned out to be violent too.



## WHO IS TRAVIS SCOTT?

Travis Scott is also a rapper, songwriter, and producer. Jacques Berman Webster II is his real name. On April 30, 1991, Travis was born in Houston, Texas. He comes from a mostly middle-class background. His father has a master's degree. Both of his grandfathers have advanced degrees too. The artist's parents encouraged him to get an education.





## THE DUCKWORTH FAMILY

Kendrick's family moved to California with very little. Their clothes were in garbage bags. They only had \$500. An aunt lived in Compton, so that's where they ended up. At first, his parents slept in motels. There wasn't enough money to rent an apartment. Sometimes they stayed in their car. The couple had to save up for a place. Then they had Kendrick. For much of his childhood, Kendrick's mother was a hairdresser. His dad worked at KFC.

## THE WEBSTER FAMILY

Travis's parents are Wanda Yvette and Jacques Berman Webster. The Websters got help from extended family too. When Travis was born, they lived with his maternal grandmother. She had a small house in the South Park neighborhood of Houston. Wanda worked retail. Jacques ran a business. In 2005, however, he became unemployed. Travis has an older brother named Marcus. He also has a younger brother and sister. They are twins. Their names are Josh and Jordan. Jordan loves that Travis is famous.



## “WE WERE BROKE, BUT WE HAD US”



The Duckworths were on welfare and used food stamps. It brought the family closer. Even the time spent trying to make ends meet was valuable. Kendrick would go with his parents to pick up their food stamps. He told GQ that “if we didn’t have that county building to walk to, I wouldn’t have built that bond with my mother, or my father, to see that this is a family . . . we were broke, but we had us.”

### COMPTON MUSICIANS

Besides Kendrick Lamar, many famous hip-hop artists started in Compton. Dr. Dre, Ice Cube, and Eazy-E of N.W.A made a historic album. It was called *Straight Outta Compton*. The group has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Rappers Suge Knight, Tyga, and Coolio also got their start in Compton.

Ice Cube



## FROM THE INNER CITY TO THE SUBURBS



South Park was a poor neighborhood. It was also violent. This shaped Travis's worldview. Both rappers understood from an early age how hard life can be. Travis is grateful for what he has. He doesn't feel proud of being from a tough neighborhood. When he was six, Travis moved to a middle-class suburb called Missouri City. There, he was surrounded by people from many different backgrounds. The rapper told *Complex*, "I adapted to . . . suburban culture, fresh culture, and diversity. I'm big on diversity."

A wide-angle photograph of the Houston skyline, featuring numerous skyscrapers and modern buildings. In the foreground, there are green trees and a road with cars. The sky is blue with some clouds.

Houston, Texas

## A STRONG STUDENT

Kendrick was a good student. He usually made straight As in school. Teachers praised his excellent vocabulary. Still, he did not go on to college. “I could have went. I should have went,” he told *Rolling Stone*. “It’s always in the back of my mind. It’s not too late.”





## PRIVATE SCHOOL INFLUENCE

Travis went to private elementary and middle schools. His private school classmates exposed him to new music. They showed him different viewpoints. At 17, he graduated from Elkins High School. It is one of the top public high schools in the country. After high school, Travis attended the University of Texas at San Antonio. He dropped out during his sophomore year.

