

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## *Biographies: Sonia Sotomayor*



Sonia Sotomayor was born in the Bronx, New York, USA, on June 25, 1954. She is the daughter of Puerto Ricans. Her father died when she was only eight years old. Her mother, Celina Sotomayor, raised Sonia and her younger brother by herself.

Inspired by the Nancy Drew books, young Sonia dreamed of becoming a detective. When she was diagnosed with diabetes as a child, the doctors advised her to choose a different career. So, she decided on a career in law.

Sonia attended Cardinal Spellman High School, a Catholic school in the Bronx. Through her perseverance and intelligence, she earned a scholarship to start her law studies at the prestigious Princeton University, a difficult challenge at that time for a Hispanic from the Bronx.

Sonia Sotomayor graduated from Princeton University with honors in 1976. She later earned her degree of Juris Doctor from Yale University Law School.

Her first prominent position was as assistant district attorney, pursuing cases of robbery, homicide, and police brutality.

Sonia was nominated by former President George H. W. Bush to be a judge for the Southern District of New York on November 27, 1991. She became the youngest judge in the district and the first federal Hispanic judge in the state of New York.

Sonia's career rose steeply on May 26, 2009 when she was nominated by former President Barack Obama to replace Supreme Court Judge David Souter.





On August 6, 2009, the appointment of Sotomayor was voted on by the United States Senate and confirmed with 68 votes in favor, 31 against. Sonia Sotomayor became an associate judge in the Supreme Court of the United States of America.

This Puerto Rican woman from the Bronx became the first Hispanic and the third female to hold a position on the Supreme Court.

Her mother, Celina Sotomayor, devoted a lot of time and effort to help her daughter's career. For that reason, Sonia always pays homage to her mother considering her "the inspiration of her life".

Sonia Sotomayor has written a book in which she shares her memoirs and details of her personal and professional life. This book was published in both English and Spanish in 2013.

According to some people close to Sonia Sotomayor, what characterizes her best is her modesty because she has never forgotten where she comes from or her race.

Apparently, this was part of what encouraged former President Barack Obama to nominate her for the Supreme Court. Sonia Sotomayor has an exemplary career as a lawyer and in her personal life.

Sonia Sotomayor married at an early age and divorced. She has no children. She says she loves her work and enjoys many things that life has given her.

Sonia belongs to the Democratic political party, is a university professor, and is a Supreme Court judge.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. What did Sonia want to be before deciding on law?

- A. A doctor
- B. A detective
- C. A lawyer
- D. An artist



2. Where were Sonia's parents from?

- A. Dominican Republic
- B. Colombia
- C. Puerto Rico
- D. Mexico



3. How old was Sonia when her father died?

- A. 7 years
- B. 8 years
- C. 9 years
- D. 10 years

4. She is the first Hispanic and third female to occupy a position in the Supreme Court.

- A. True
- B. False

5. At which university did she earn her degree as a lawyer?

- A. At Princeton University
- B. At Stanford University
- C. At Yale University
- D. At the University of California

