

Name: _____

Biographies: Soledad O'Brien



Maria de la Soledad Teresa O'Brien is an award-winning correspondent with a sense of journalistic honesty. Her multi-ethnic origin and professionalism have made her a world leader in the field of journalism and television producers.

Soledad was born on September 19, 1966, in St. James, New York. She is the daughter of immigrants from Australia and Cuba. Soledad is the fifth of six children of the O'Brien couple. Her siblings are Maria, Cecilia, Tony, Estela, and Orestes. They all graduated from Harvard.

In 1984, Soledad graduated from Smithtown High School East. She attended Harvard-Radcliffe College for four years, beginning with pre-medicine and continuing with English and English literature. She left to start a job on WBZ-TV. Soledad returned to Harvard University, while she was pregnant with her first child, and received her bachelor's degree in English and American literature in 2000.

After working as a medical reporter at WXKS-FM in Boston, she worked as an associate producer and news editor at WBZ-TV, which was an NBC subsidiary in Boston at that time. Soledad joined NBC News in 1991 and moved to New York to work as a field producer for Nightly News and Weekend Today. She worked for three years as a local reporter and bureau chief for KRON, an NBC branch in San Francisco. While at KRON, she was a reporter for The Know Zone.

In 1996, Soledad was the host of the MSNBC weekend morning program and the cable network technology program, The Site, which was broadcast from the spring of 1996 to November 1997. That show was unique because Soledad interacted with a virtual character named Dev Null, who was played by Leo Laporte, in a motion-capture suit.





From July 1999 to July 2003, Soledad was co-host of the NBC News Weekend Today program with David Bloom. During that time, she contributed reports for the Today Show, which aired weekdays, and for the weekend editions of NBC Nightly News.

Soledad moved to CNN, and from July 2003 to April 2007, she was co-host of CNN's morning flagship program, American Morning, which aired live from New York City. January 2012 to March 2013, Soledad hosted the CNN program, Starting Point.

In 2013, Soledad took another step in her career; she started her own news production company called Starfish Media Group. Soledad has produced documentary programs with Starfish Media Group that have broadcast on CNN. Soledad's Starfish Media Group signed an agreement giving first-look rights to HBO for new programs or concepts that it develops.

In 1995, she married Bradford "Brad" Raymond, co-director of investment banking at Stifel. They have four children: Sofia, Cecilia, and twin boys, Charles and Jackson.

Since 2011, Soledad and her husband run a foundation called PowHERful Foundation, which guides women and helps to send them to college.

Because of her multi-ethnic origins, Soledad has been honored by African American, Hispanic-American, and Irish American groups for her contributions to journalism. She is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, and is also on the board of directors for the Harlem School of the Arts.



Name: _____

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. What are the origins of Soledad's parents?

- a. Austrian - Spanish
- b. Romanian - American
- c. Spanish - Cuban
- d. None of the above

2. What career did Soledad begin at Harvard??

- a. Architecture
- b. Journalism
- c. Pre-medicine
- d. Psychology

3. Where did Soledad work from 1999 to 2003?

- a. On HBO
- b. On NBC
- c. On CNN
- d. On KRON

4. In 1995, Soledad married Bradford "Brad" Raymond and they have six children.

- a. True
- b. False

5. Soledad Teresa O'Brien is a_____.

- a. Producer of Starfish Media Group
- b. NBC Reporter
- c. Harvard professor
- d. All of the above



6. Do you think that life was easy for Soledad? Why?

7. Why does the text say Soledad O'Brien has a multi-ethnic origin?

- a. She was born in Cuba.
- b. Their parents are from different countries.
- c. She studied at Harvard University.
- d. She was a great journalistic professional.

8. Soledad studied a lot and worked hard to get a better professional future.

- a. True
- b. False

9. Circle the synonyms for the word journalist.

- a. Editor
- b. Correspondent
- c. Reporter
- d. All the above

10. If you could work with Soledad, what would you like to collaborate with? Why?
(Choose One)

- a. Writing news because _____

- b. Recording it on video because _____

- c. With the lighting and the exit to scene because _____

- d. Gathering information because _____

- e. In the locker room, makeup, and hairdressing because _____
