

## **Nina Simone Monument**

**Part 1:** Use the [Commemorative Landscapes](#) site to answer the following questions:

1. According to the description, how is Simone's "look" described?

**(staring ahead with) Introspection and outward determination**

2. According to the description, how is Simone's keyboard described?

**A wave, conveying grace and motion, floating**

3. What other words would you choose to describe her expression and her keyboard? Explain your answer.

**Answers will vary**

4. What do you think is the symbolic significance of the bronze heart?

**Possible answer: Brings Simone's ashes back to her home town; shows her heart is home in Tryon**

5. What is Nina Simone's nickname? **The High Priestess of Soul**

6. Other than the obelisk, how is this nickname represented in the monument design?

**Simone is 8 feet tall**

7. Why was the monument placed in Tryon, NC?

**Simone was born and raised in Tryon**

**Part 2:** Use the [Biography](#) website to answer the following questions:

1. What did Simone think about her nickname? What did she want to be called?

**Disliked it- preferred folk singer**

2. Once she left home, where did Simone get her music training?

**Juilliard**

3. Why did Simone think she was rejected from the Curtis Institute of Music?

**Because she was African-American**

4. What Harlem Renaissance writers were fans of her work?

**Langston Hughes, Lorraine Hansberry, and James Baldwin**

5. What inspired Simone to write “Mississippi Goddam?”

**“the 1963 assassination of [Medgar Evers](#) and the Birmingham church bombing that killed four young African-American girls.”**

6. What inspired the song “Why (The King of Love is Dead)?”

**the assassination of Reverend [Martin Luther King, Jr.](#) in 1968**

7. Why do you think Simone wanted to participate in the Civil Rights Movement?

**Answers will vary: She was an African-American woman, she had been discriminated against, she was affected by the discrimination of other African-Americans, she wanted to tell others what was happening to African-Americans**

8. In your opinion, what is the value of artistic participation in Civil Rights? What impact can a song have, rather than other actions such as sit-ins or writing letters to government representatives?

**Answers will vary**