Condoleezza Rice

Because of her position as Secretary of State (the equivalent of foreign minister) in the United States government, and the fact that she is one of President George W Bush’s most trusted advisers, Condoleezza Rice is often described as ‘the most powerful woman in the world’.

As a black woman born in the state of Alabama in November 1954, a time of racial segregation and discrimination in the southern states of the US, Rice has certainly not had an easy path to the top. Her parents, however, always had faith in her ability. In reference to the fact that black people were not allowed to use certain restaurants in her home town, Rice says her father’s view was that ‘you may not be able to have a hamburger … but you can be president of the United States’.

Her parents were sympathetic towards the civil rights movement in the US in the 1960s, which aimed to achieve equal rights for black people through collective action, but believed individual talent and determination would be more important for their daughter if she wanted to get ahead. Keen for her to have a broad education, they arranged French, music, and ballet lessons for her when she was only three years old. As a teenager Rice dreamed of becoming a professional pianist, but her musical ambitions gave way to a fascination with international relations when she started studying politics at Denver University in Colorado. After her degree she got her first taste of government by working as an intern at the State Department, and by the age of 26 she had completed a PhD in political science that led her into a career as a professor at Stanford University in California.

During two years away from Stanford, between 1989 and 1991, she worked as an adviser on Soviet and East-European affairs in the government of George Bush (the father of George W Bush), and made such a lasting impression that nine years later, during the 2000 US presidential election campaign, George W Bush employed her as his foreign policy adviser.

When Bush narrowly won the November 2000 election, Rice stepped into the spotlight as his National Security Adviser, before being promoted to Secretary of State in 2005. In these two positions she has been closely involved with some of the most important international events of the last seven years.

As for more trivial facts, she has visited more than 60 different countries, speaks four foreign languages (French, German, Russian and Spanish), enjoys playing golf as a means of relaxation, and enjoys listening to the music of the 1970s rock group Led Zeppelin.
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Fill the gaps below to complete the crossword and reveal the name of the city in which Condoleezza Rice grew up. It is the largest city in the state of Alabama, and was named after the second largest city in Britain.

1. Condoleezza Rice started ___________ lessons when she was very young.
2. She ______________ George W Bush on foreign policy during the 2000 US presidential election campaign.
3. She received a ______________ in 2005 when she was made Secretary of State.
4. Rice has had to show a lot of ______________ to get where she is today.
5. In the 1950s, black people were ______________ against in Alabama.
6. Rice became extremely ______________ in international relations while she was studying politics at Denver University.
7. She ______________ at Stanford University in California.
8. Her parents were sympathetic towards the campaign for black ______________ in the 1960s.
9. One of the ways she ______________ is by playing golf.
10. Although her job title is different, she does the same work as foreign ______________ in the governments of most other countries.
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