

Kobe Bryant

Kobe Bryant was an American basketball player who played for the Los Angeles Lakers. Kobe had a very successful basketball career and earned lots of awards.

Early Life

Kobe Bean Bryant was born on the 23rd August 1978. His parents were called Joe Bryant and Pamela Bryant. His father was a famous basketball player. Kobe's middle name 'Bean' came from his father's nickname, which was 'Jellybean'.



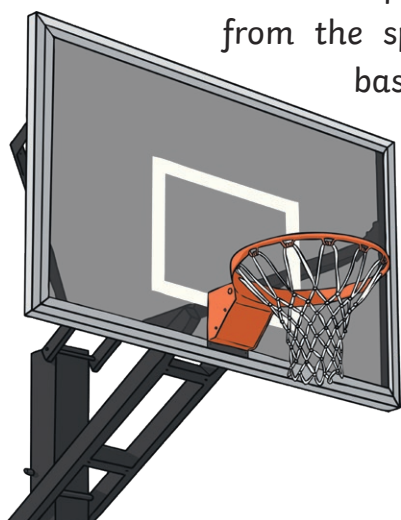
When Kobe was six years old, his family moved to Italy and he learnt how to speak Italian. When he was 13, the family moved back to the United States and Kobe began playing basketball at school. Kobe's school team went on to win the state championship. This was the first time that they had won it in a long time.

A Career in Basketball

At the age of 17, Kobe left school and followed his dream of becoming a professional basketball player. A few months after his 18th birthday, Kobe joined the Los Angeles Lakers (LA Lakers) – a team that he supported as a young boy. This meant that Kobe was the youngest player in the National Basketball Association's (NBA) history.

Kobe spent the next 20 years playing for the LA Lakers and mainly played as the shooting guard. The shooting guard's job is to score as many points as possible for their team by shooting the ball through the hoop. Shooting guards are often very tall. Being tall means that it can be easier to score from far away. Kobe was just under 2 metres tall, which is the average height of a door in the UK!

Kobe continued to play basketball for 20 seasons before deciding to retire from the sport in 2016. In total, Kobe played in over 1,000 basketball games over 20 years.



Achievements

Kobe achieved lots throughout his career. The table below shows just a few of these achievements.



Year	Achievement
2006	Kobe scored 81 points in a single game of basketball. This is the second-highest score ever recorded!
2008 and 2012	Kobe and the rest of the United States basketball team won a gold medal at both the 2008 and the 2012 Olympics.
2018	After retiring from basketball, Kobe won an award for his five minute long film named 'Dear Basketball'.

Dear Basketball

In 2017, Kobe Bryant wrote and narrated a short film called 'Dear Basketball'. The film was animated with hand-drawn pictures of Kobe and was based on a letter that he wrote. The letter said that he planned to retire from playing basketball. At the beginning of the film, Kobe talks about himself as a child who pretended to play basketball using rolled up socks and a bin. After showing animations of Kobe playing the game, the film ends with him announcing his retirement. He explains that his body knew when it was time to stop and that he had reached that point.

When it was released, the short film was watched by thousands of people. It then went on to earn lots of awards at several different events.



Questions

1. How old was Kobe when he joined the Los Angeles Lakers? Tick one.

- ☐ 13
- ☐ 17
- ☐ 18
- ☐ 19

2. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.

In 1978...

Kobe won a gold medal
at the Olympics.

In 2006...

Kobe retired from
playing basketball.

In 2012...

Kobe was born.

In 2016...

Kobe scored 81 points in
one game of basketball.

3. How many Olympic gold medals did Kobe win in total?

4. Look at the section called **Dear Basketball**.

Find and copy one word which means the same as **stating**.

5. Why is being tall often an advantage for shooting guards in basketball?

6. Do you think that Kobe enjoyed playing basketball? Explain your answer.

7. Sum up Kobe's career in basketball using 20 words or fewer.

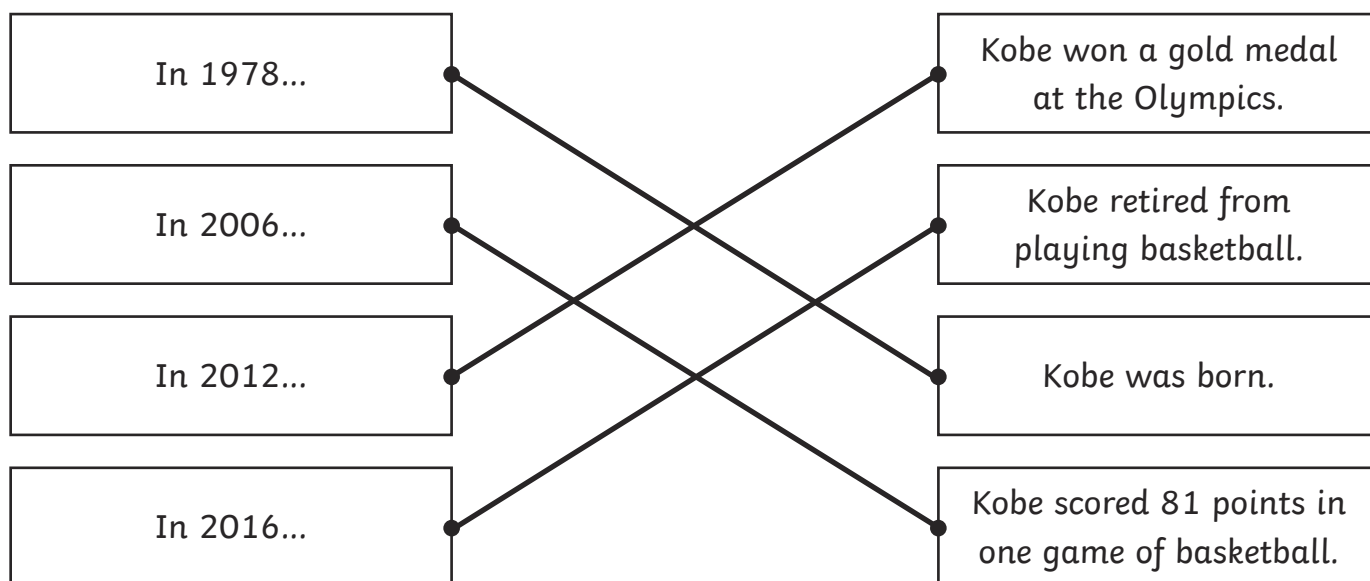
8. Do you think that you would enjoy playing basketball for a career? Explain your answer.

Answers

1. How old was Kobe when he joined the Los Angeles Lakers? Tick one.

- ☐ 13
☐ 17
☒ 18
☐ 19

2. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.



3. How many Olympic gold medals did Kobe win in total?

Kobe won two Olympic gold medals in total.

4. Look at the section called **Dear Basketball**.

Find and copy one word which means the same as **stating**.

announcing

5. Why is being tall often an advantage for shooting guards in basketball?

Being tall is often an advantage for shooting guards because it is easier to score from far away.

6. Do you think that Kobe enjoyed playing basketball? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Kobe did enjoy playing basketball because it says that he 'followed his dream' and he also continued doing it for 20 years.

7. Sum up Kobe's career in basketball using 20 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Kobe played basketball for the LA Lakers for 20 years as a shooting guard before retiring after 20 seasons.

8. Do you think that you would enjoy playing basketball for a career? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that I would enjoy playing basketball for a career because it sounds like a lot of fun and there is the potential to win a lot of medals and awards.

Kobe Bryant



Kobe Bryant was an American basketball player who played for the Los Angeles Lakers for 20 years. Kobe had a successful professional basketball career and received a number of awards.

Early Life

Kobe Bean Bryant was born on the 23rd August 1978 in the United States. His mother was Pamela Bryant and his father was Joe Bryant – a famous basketball player. It is believed that Kobe's first name was decided upon when his parents saw a dish advertised on a restaurant menu and liked the name. Kobe's middle name 'Bean' originated from his father's nickname, which was 'Jellybean'.

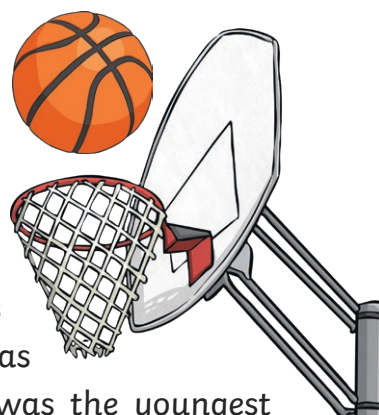
When Kobe was six years old, his family moved to Italy. While living there, Kobe learnt how to speak Italian. When he was 13, the family moved back to the United States and Kobe began playing basketball at school. With Kobe on their team, the school went on to win the state championship. This was the first time that they had won it in a long time.

A Career in Basketball

At the age of 17, Kobe made the decision to leave school and to follow his dream of becoming a professional basketball player. A few months after his 18th birthday, Kobe's talent was noticed and he was traded to the Los Angeles Lakers (LA Lakers) – a team that he supported as a young boy. Incredibly, this move meant that Kobe was the youngest player in the National Basketball Association's (NBA) history.

Kobe spent the rest of his career playing for the LA Lakers with his main position being the shooting guard. In a game of basketball, the shooting guard's job is to score as many points as possible for their team by shooting the ball through the hoop. Shooting guards are typically very tall as this can be an advantage when aiming over a long distance. Kobe was just under 2 metres tall, which is the average height of a door in the UK!

Kobe continued to play basketball for 20 seasons. Each season lasts for around 6 months and each team in the NBA plays a total of 82 games. In 2016, after 20 years as a professional, Kobe retired from the sport.



Achievements

Throughout his glittering career, Kobe earned a number of incredible achievements. A small selection are listed below.

Year	Achievement
2006	Kobe scored 81 points in a single game of basketball. This is second-highest amount of points ever recorded by an individual during one game.
2008	Kobe and the rest of the team won a gold medal for the United States in basketball at the Olympics in Beijing.
2012	After another successful year, the United States basketball team won a second gold medal at the Olympics in London.
2016	Kobe became the youngest person in NBA history to record 33,000 lifetime points. Only a handful of other players have ever been known to reach this amount.
2018	Following his retirement from basketball, Kobe won an award for his five minute long film named 'Dear Basketball'.

Dear Basketball

In 2017, Kobe Bryant wrote and narrated a short film called 'Dear Basketball'. The film was animated with hand-drawn pictures of Kobe and was based on a letter that he wrote to announce his plan to retire from basketball. At the beginning of the film, Kobe talks about himself as a child who pretended to play basketball using rolled up socks and a bin. After showing animations of Kobe playing the game, the film ends with him announcing his retirement. He explains that his body knew when it was time to stop and that he had reached that point.

When it was released, the short film was highly successful and was watched by thousands of people. It then went on to earn multiple awards at several different events.



Questions

1. What does NBA stand for? Tick one.

- ☐ No Basketball Attitude
- ☐ National Basketball Association
- ☐ National Basketball Anthem
- ☐ National Basketball America

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they occurred.

- ☐ Kobe won an award for his short film 'Dear Basketball.'
- ☐ Kobe scored 81 points in a single game.
- ☐ Kobe moved to Italy with his family.
- ☐ Kobe won a gold medal at the Olympics in Beijing.

3. Fill in the missing words to complete the sentence.

Dear Basketball features _____ as a young boy throwing _____ into a bin.

4. Look at the paragraph beginning **Kobe spent the rest of...**

Find and copy one word which means the same as **often**.

5. Where did Kobe get his middle name from?

6. **Kobe had a successful professional basketball career.**

Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

7. **In 2016, Kobe became the youngest person in NBA history to record 33,000 lifetime points. Only a handful of other players have ever been known to reach this amount.**

Why do you think that only a handful of players have reached this amount?

Explain your answer.

8. Do you think that Kobe has inspired people to start playing basketball? Explain your answer.

9. Look at the section titled **Achievements**.

Sum up Kobe's achievements in 25 words or fewer.

Answers

1. What does NBA stand for? Tick one.

- ☐ No Basketball Attitude
- ☒ **National Basketball Association**
- ☐ National Basketball Anthem
- ☐ National Basketball America

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they occurred.

- 4** Kobe won an award for his short film 'Dear Basketball.'
- 2** Kobe scored 81 points in a single game.
- 1** Kobe moved to Italy with his family.
- 3** Kobe won a gold medal at the Olympics in Beijing.

3. Fill in the missing words to complete the sentence.

Dear Basketball features **Kobe** as a young boy throwing **socks** into a bin.

4. Look at the paragraph beginning **Kobe spent the rest of...**

Find and copy one word which means the same as **often**.

typically

5. Where did Kobe get his middle name from?

Kobe got his middle name from his dad's nickname, which was 'Jellybean'.

6. **Kobe had a successful professional basketball career.**

Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I agree with this statement because Kobe won two Olympic gold medals and played in the same team for 20 years. He also broke several records while playing basketball, including the youngest person to reach 33,000 points.

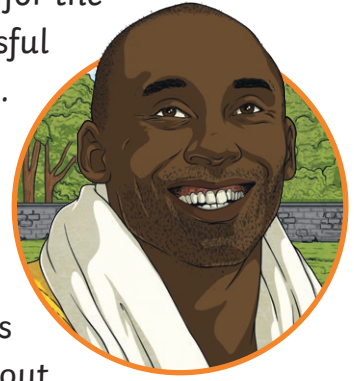
7. **In 2016, Kobe became the youngest person in NBA history to record 33,000 lifetime points. Only a handful of other players have ever been known to reach this amount.**
Why do you think that only a handful of players have reached this amount?
Explain your answer.
Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that only a handful of players have reached this amount because you would have to play a lot of games to get that many. Kobe played for 20 years and only managed to reach 33,000 just before he retired.
8. Do you think that Kobe has inspired people to start playing basketball? Explain your answer.
Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Kobe would have inspired lots of people to play basketball because it was his dream as a child and then he made it come true by working hard. I think that children will watch his film 'Dear Basketball' and want to follow in his footsteps.
9. Look at the section titled **Achievements**.
Sum up Kobe's achievements in 25 words or fewer.
Pupils' own responses, such as: Kobe won two Olympic gold medals, an award for his short film and was the youngest person in history to score over 33,000 lifetime points.

Kobe Bryant

Kobe Bryant was an American basketball player who played for the Los Angeles Lakers for 20 years. Kobe had a hugely successful professional basketball career and held a number of records.

Early Life

Kobe Bean Bryant was born on the 23rd August 1978 in Philadelphia – a city in the United States. His mother was Pamela Bryant and his father was Joe Bryant – a famous basketball player. It is said that Kobe's first name came about when his parents saw a Japanese dish advertised on a restaurant menu and liked the name. Kobe's middle name 'Bean' originated from his father's nickname, which was 'Jellybean'.



When Kobe was six years old, his family moved to Italy so that his father could continue his basketball career. While in Italy, Kobe learnt how to speak fluent Italian. At the age of 13, the family moved back to the United States and Kobe began playing basketball at school. With Kobe on their team, the school went on to win the state championship; their first win in a long time.

A Career in Basketball

At the age of 17, Kobe made the decision that he didn't want to go to college. He felt as though his skills as a basketball player were strong enough to forge a career with; therefore, he made the decision to leave school. A few months after his 18th birthday, Kobe's talent was noticed and he was traded to the Los Angeles Lakers: his professional basketball career had begun. Incredibly, this move meant that Kobe was the youngest player in the National Basketball Association's history.

Kobe spent his entire professional career playing for the LA Lakers with his main position being the shooting guard. In a game of basketball, the shooting guard's job is to score as many points as possible for their team by shooting the ball through the hoop. Typically, shooting guards are very tall as this allows for an advantage; especially when aiming over a long distance. Kobe was just under 2 metres tall, which is the average height of a door in the UK!



Despite several injuries, Kobe continued to play basketball for 20 seasons. Each season lasts for 6 months and sees each team in the NBA play a total of 82 games. Typically, each season begins in October and ends in April; play-offs and finals follow shortly after. In 2016, after a hugely successful career, Kobe retired from the sport.

Achievements

Throughout his glittering career, Kobe earned a number of incredible achievements. A small selection are listed below.

Year	Achievement
2006	Kobe scored 81 points in a single game of basketball. This is second-highest amount of points scored by an individual during one game in NBA history.
2008	Alongside the rest of his team, Kobe won a gold medal for the United States in basketball at the Olympics in Beijing.
2012	After another successful year, the United States basketball team won a second gold medal at the Olympics in London.
2016	Just a few months before his retirement, Kobe became the youngest person in NBA history to accrue 33,000 lifetime points – a feat that only a handful of players have managed.
2018	Following his retirement from basketball, Kobe won an award for his five minute long film entitled 'Dear Basketball'.

Dear Basketball

In 2017, Kobe Bryant wrote and narrated a short film called 'Dear Basketball'. The film, which was animated with hand-drawn pictures of Kobe, was based on a letter that he wrote to announce his retirement from basketball. At the beginning, Kobe talks about himself as a child who pretended to play basketball using rolled up socks and a bin. It continues with Kobe talking about how much he loved the game and how important it was to him. Finally, the film ends with Kobe announcing his retirement. He explains that his body knew when it was time to stop and that he had reached that point.

When it was released, the short film was incredibly successful and was viewed by thousands of people. It then went on to earn multiple awards at several prestigious events.

Questions

1. How many gold medals did Kobe win in total at the Olympics? Tick one.

- ☐ 0
☐ 1
☐ 2
☐ 3

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they occurred.

- ☐ Kobe wrote and narrated 'Dear Basketball'.
☐ Kobe won an Olympic gold in London.
☐ Kobe won an award for 'Dear Basketball'.
☐ Kobe won an Olympic gold in Beijing.

3. Look at the section titled **Achievements**.

Find and copy one word which means the same as **accomplishment**.

4. What **two** things was Kobe the youngest player ever to achieve?

1.

2.

5. Why was Kobe at an advantage when playing as a shooting guard?

6. **Kobe had a hugely successful professional basketball career.**

What evidence can you find in the text which supports this statement?

7. Do you think that using the film 'Dear Basketball' was a good way for Kobe to announce his retirement?

8. What skills do you think someone would need to have to become a successful NBA player like Kobe Bryant? Explain your answer.

9. Do you think that this text might inspire people to play basketball? Tick one.

- ☐ yes
☐ no

Fully explain your answer.

10. How do you think that Kobe Bryant felt when he announced his retirement from basketball? Fully explain your answer.

Answers

1. How many gold medals did Kobe win in total at the Olympics? Tick one.

- ☐ 0
☐ 1
☒ 2
☐ 3

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they occurred.

- 3** Kobe wrote and narrated 'Dear Basketball'.
2 Kobe won an Olympic gold in London.
4 Kobe won an award for 'Dear Basketball'.
1 Kobe won an Olympic gold in Beijing.

3. Look at the section titled **Achievements**.

Find and copy one word which means the same as **accomplishment**.
feat

4. What **two** things was Kobe the youngest player ever to achieve?

1. **The youngest person ever to accrue 33,000 lifetime points.**
2. **The youngest player in the National Basketball Association's history.**

5. Why was Kobe at an advantage when playing as a shooting guard?

Kobe was at an advantage when playing as a shooting guard because he was nearly 2 metres tall.

6. **Kobe had a hugely successful professional basketball career.**

What evidence can you find in the text which supports this statement?

Pupils' own responses provided that evidence from the text is used, such as: In the text, it lists only a 'small selection' of Kobe's achievements which shows that he must have been very successful.

7. Do you think that using the film 'Dear Basketball' was a good way for Kobe to announce his retirement?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that announcing his retirement through 'Dear Basketball' was a good idea because it explained how much basketball meant to him so that people could understand why he was doing it. Without that, people might have just thought that he was lazy.

8. What skills do you think someone would need to have to become a successful NBA player like Kobe Bryant? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that someone would need to be fit and healthy and to have been training for many years. This is because Kobe Bryant was playing for his school's team for 5 years before he was accepted into the NBA.

9. Do you think that this text might inspire people to play basketball? Tick one.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Yes, I think that this text might inspire people to play basketball because Kobe Bryant was really impressive and successful and people might want to follow in his footsteps after hearing about all of his achievements.

10. How do you think that Kobe Bryant felt when he announced his retirement from basketball? Fully explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Kobe Bryant would have felt nervous because he didn't know what people's reactions would be. I also think that he would have felt sad to leave the LA Lakers because he had been playing for them for 20 years.