

WHO WAS PELE?

Read the biography and answer the questions that follow!

Edson Arantes do Nascimento, better known as Pelé, is considered one of the greatest soccer players of all time. Born on October 23, 1940, in Três Corações, Brazil, Pelé's journey to soccer stardom began at a young age.

Growing up in poverty, Pelé developed a passion for soccer and began playing barefoot in the streets of his hometown. His exceptional talent was soon noticed, and at the age of just 15, he signed with Santos FC, one of Brazil's top clubs. Pelé made his professional debut in 1956 and quickly became a sensation, capturing the hearts of fans with his remarkable skill, speed, and ability to score goals.

Pelé's rise to fame was meteoric. In 1958, at the age of 17, he made his debut for the Brazilian national team in the FIFA World Cup. Pelé's performance in the tournament was nothing short of extraordinary. He scored six goals, including a memorable hat-trick in the semi-final against France, leading Brazil to their first World Cup victory. Pelé's skill and charisma captured the hearts of soccer fans around the world, earning him the nickname "The King of Soccer."

Over the course of his illustrious career, Pelé continued to dominate the world stage. He won two more World Cup titles with Brazil in 1962 and 1970, making him the only player in history to win three World Cup championships. Pelé's impact on the game extended beyond his on-field achievements. He revolutionized the way soccer was played, showcasing his creativity, athleticism, and sportsmanship.

Off the field, Pelé became a global ambassador for the sport, using his fame to promote peace, unity, and social change. For his accomplishments and professionalism, Pelé has always been a beloved figure in the soccer world, revered for his talent, humility, and contributions to the game.

Today, Pelé's legacy continues to inspire future generations of soccer players around the world. His remarkable career serves as a testament to the power of perseverance, passion, and determination, making him an enduring icon in the world of sports.

- 1) How did Pelé's journey to soccer begin?**

- 2) What did Pelé do at the age of 15 that brought him recognition?**

- 3) How did Pelé's performance in the 1958 FIFA World Cup impact his reputation?**

- 4) How many World Cup titles did Pelé win with Brazil?**

- 5) Besides his on-field achievements, what else did Pelé contribute to the world of soccer?**

- 6) What qualities of Pelé's character are highlighted in the text?**

- 7) How does Pelé's career serve as an inspiration to others?**

