

“Dwayne Johnson, American professional wrestler and actor,” Michael Ray, facts checked by The Editors of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, last update: 20 Oct 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Dwayne-Johnson> (photo: uncredited), augmented with information drawn from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dwayne\\_Johnson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dwayne_Johnson), consulted 10 Mar 23. Edited principally for length by S. Meyer, facts unchecked



Dwayne Johnson (byname The Rock, born May 2, 1972, Hayward, California (U.S.), is an American professional wrestler and actor whose charisma and athleticism made him a success in both fields. He was born into a wrestling family. His maternal grandfather, “High Chief” Peter Maivia, emerged on the professional scene in the 1960s and '70s. Johnson’s father, “Soulman” Rocky Johnson, worked the American regional wrestling circuit and boxed. However, the younger Johnson initially preferred the American football field to the wrestling mat. He was a standout high-school and university athlete. After injuries cut short his career in the Canadian Football League, he turned to wrestling.

Gifted with a remarkable combination of size, speed, and agility as well as impeccable microphone skills, Johnson made his World Wrestling Federation (WWF) debut in 1996 as Rocky Maivia, a name that paid tribute to both his father and his grandfather. He was heavily promoted as a “face” (crowd favourite), and quickly captured the WWF Intercontinental title. The aggressive push triggered a backlash from fans, however, and the Rocky Maivia persona was sidelined in favour of The Rock, a popular unapologetic “heel” (“bad guy”). He captured the first of several world championship titles in 1998.

The brash charm that Johnson exhibited in his in-ring monologues translated smoothly to the silver screen, and his appearance in *The Mummy Returns* (2001) signaled a new stage in his career. He followed it with *The Scorpion King* (2002) and *The Rundown* (2003). In 2004 he left the ring to turn his attention to acting full-time. His later films included testosterone-fueled action fare as well as family entertainments, such as the titular Greek mythological figure in *Hercules* (2014), or as the voice of a demigod in Disney’s *Moana* (2016). He also appeared in various television projects, and founded his production company Seven Bucks Productions in 2012.

In 2011, Johnson appeared in the ring for the first time in seven years, sparking a feud with John Cena, star of World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE), that culminated in a high grossing main-event match at WrestleMania XXVIII in April 2012. In January 2013, Johnson captured his eighth professional wrestling title, but he surrendered it less than three months later after losing to Cena in another highly publicized bout.

In 2000, Johnson published his autobiography, titled *The Rock Says...*, which he co-wrote with Joe Layden. It debuted at No. 1 on The New York Times Best Seller list and remained on the list for several weeks.

In recognition of his service to the Samoan people, and because he is a descendant of chiefs of Samoa, Johnson was given the noble title of Seiuli (meaning the son of Malietoa [Alo o Malietoa]) during his visit there on August 9, 2004. He also contributes to charity.

Dwayne Johnson (prepared by S. Meyer based on  
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Dwayne-Johnson>,  
and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dwayne\\_Johnson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dwayne_Johnson))

**GIST:** Friends want to go to the movies with you. Is a movie playing with their favorite actor? To remember who it is and what he's done, WRITE these significant words on a separate piece of paper, SKIM READ the text QUICKLY to find them, and MAKE a MARK next to the words EACH time you do. COUNT the marks for EACH, then CLICK and CHOOSE the correct answers. WATCH OUT! A rival movie star has included AT LEAST one word that isn't in the text. **MAXIMUM TIME:** 5 min.

Hollywood \_\_\_\_\_

Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

Samoa \_\_\_\_\_

The Rock \_\_\_\_\_



**DETAILED:** That helped! Refresh your memory even more. Now, SCAN READ the questions twice, then SCAN READ the text twice, then – WITHOUT looking back at the text – CLICK on the correct TRUE / FALSE answers. The questions are purposefully very general. If you need to look at the text, again, to be SURE of your answers, IT'S OK – just remember for which ones you needed to do it, and we'll see them, together. HINTS: the questions don't always have the same wording as in the text, or it's too easy, and REMEMBER to answer based on the information IN THE TEXT. **MAXIMUM** 10-15 min.

1. Dwayne has done many things, professionally; one example: acting.	TRUE / FALSE
2. As a wrestler, Dwayne was first a crowd pleaser, then a popular “bad guy.”	TRUE / FALSE
3. He is now a Samoan noble because of his contributions to charity.	TRUE / FALSE
4. Dwayne only did testosterone-fueled action films.	TRUE / FALSE
5. Dwayne’s grandfather and father were both wrestlers.	TRUE / FALSE
6. Dwayne’s physical & speaking qualities helped make him popular.	TRUE / FALSE
7. After a break, Dwayne participated in only two important wrestling matches.	TRUE / FALSE
8. Even if people like him, his auto-biography didn’t sell many copies at all.	TRUE / FALSE

(Text image: *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, uncredited; task images: Microsoft Clipart of the Word program used to create this task)