1. Read the title of the article and look at the picture. What do you think the article is about? Read the article and answer

# A life of ups and downs

**You don't have to be a big fan of skateboarding to know the name Tony Hawk. Born on May 12, 1968 in San Diego, California, Hawk started making money as a professional skateboarder when he was 14. He quickly became the most famous skateboarder in history.**

Hawk first rode on a skateboard when he was 9 years old. He practiced and practiced, and at the age of 12, he started winning competitions all over California. When Hawk was 16, everyone could see that he was the best skateboarder in the world. He spent the 1980s traveling the world, winning more and more competitions. Skateboarding was one of the most popular sports in the U.S. and in many other parts of the world, and Hawk was the skateboarding king.

In 1991, everything changed. People didn't go skateboarding – or watch skateboarding – as often as before. Many professional skateboarders found other jobs, but Hawk didn't want to leave the world of skateboarding. A year later, he started a company selling skateboards. It didn't make much money at first.

Fortunately, in the late 1990s, things changed again. Skateboarding was back! Hawk helped to create the *Tony Hawk's Pro Skater* video game, which made billions of dollars. And he didn't stop skateboarding. In 1999, he made history again when he became the first person in the world to do the "900," one of the most difficult tricks in skateboarding.

**2** Read again. Complete the factfile.

| | |
|---|---|
| Name | 1 Tony Hawk |
| Date of birth | 2 _____ |
| Home city | 3 _____ |
| Age when he won his first competitions | 4 _____ |
| Age when he became the world number one skateboarder | 5 _____ |
| Year when he started his first company | 6 _____ |
| Name of his video game series | 7 _____ |
| Year when he did the first "900" | 8 _____ |

**3** Read again. Answer the questions.

1 How old was Hawk when he became a professional skateboarder?
He was 14 years old.

2 How old was Hawk when he first tried skateboarding?
_____

3 What did Hawk do in the 1980s?
_____
_____

4 Why did Hawk stop skateboarding in the 1990s?
_____

5 How much money did Hawk's video game make?
_____

6 Why was it an important moment when Hawk did the "900"?
_____
_____

**I can** make predictions about a text before I read it.