

# MICHAEL PHELPS



Most people think that Michael Phelps is the best swimmer of all time! At the Olympics, where the fastest swimmers in the world compete every four years, Phelps has been the most successful swimmer in Olympic history.

Michael Phelps was born in Maryland on June 30, 1985. He was diagnosed with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) as a child. He started swimming when he was seven because he had so much energy. By age ten, he already had set a national record in his age group. When he was just 15, he qualified to swim in the Olympics!

Phelps has the perfect body for swimming. His upper body is long and thin. His arms are long and his legs are short. He has large feet. Together with hard work, these qualities made him a champion.

Winners of Olympic races are awarded gold medals. At the 2008 Olympic Games in China, Phelps set a record by winning gold medals at a single Olympic competition. That record has not been broken.

Phelps also set a record for the most Olympic medals won by any athlete ever, in any sport. He has competed in five

separate Olympic Games. At the 2012 Olympics, in England, Phelps set the record for the largest number of Olympic medals ever won by an individual athlete. At his final Olympics, held in 2016 in Brazil, Phelps broke his own record! Altogether, in his lifetime, Phelps has won 23 Olympic gold medals, and a total of 28 Olympic medals.

**ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ABOUT *MICHAEL PHELPS***

1. Michael Phelps began swimming at the age of seven. *How did swimming **help** Michael Phelps?* Use details from the text to support your answer:  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the **main idea** of this biography? Write **four key ideas** that help you know that this is the main idea:  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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3. According to the article, what contributes to Phelps' success at swimming?
  - a. His intelligence
  - b. His sense of humor
  - c. His family
  - d. His body
4. Which best describes the overall structure, or organization, of this text?
  - a. Cause-effect
  - b. Compare/Contrast
  - c. Time-order/Sequence
  - d. Problem-Solution
5. Explain how you know your answer to question 4 is correct:  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ABOUT *MICHAEL PHELPS*

6. The author states that most people ***think that Michael Phelps is the best swimmer of all time***. Do you agree or disagree? Explain why:

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7. Read the last 2 paragraphs. Michael Phelps set an Olympic record in the 2008 Olympics, and set another Olympic record in 2012 and 2016. How were his Olympic records ***the SAME and DIFFERENT?***

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8. How old was Michael Phelps when he swam in his last Olympic Games in 2016? Use details from the text to prove that your answer is correct.

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9. How do you think that ***long arms and large feet*** helped Michael Phelps swim well?

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Reading Informational Text: #6: Craft and Structure:RI.3.6, RI.4.6, #7 -8: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas: RI.3.8,RI.4.8, #9: Key Ideas and Details: RI.3.1, RI.4.1

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## Answers to *MICHAEL PHELPS*

1. **Suggested Answer:** Michael Phelps has ADHD. He started swimming to use up his energy. Swimming helped him be calmer.
2. **Main Idea:** Michael Phelps is the greatest swimmer of all time.
  - He American (national) records as early as age ten.
  - His body is perfectly shaped for swimming.
  - He won eight gold medals in one Games, more than anyone else ever has won.
  - He has won more Olympic medals and gold medals in his lifetime than anyone else ever has won.
3. D
4. C
5. **Suggested Answer:** I know the text is organized in time order, because it starts with when Mark Phelps was born, and tells important events that happened in his life in time order.
6. **Suggested Answer:** I think the author is right. Michael Phelps is the best swimmer of all time. I believe this because swam in five Olympics, and set records for winning the most gold medals in one Olympics, and the most total Olympic medals.
7. **Suggested Answer:** Both paragraphs tell about records Phelps set in winning medals. The first paragraph tells that he set (or broke) the record for winning gold medals in one Olympics. He won eight. The next paragraph tells about how he set the record for winning the most medals ever, and then broke his own record.
8. He was 31. He first qualified for the Olympics in 2000 when he was 15 years old. When he competed in the 2016 Games, 16 years later, he was 31 years old.  $15 + 16 = 31$ . Or I can calculate his age in 2016 from when he was born.  $2016 - 1985 = 31$ .
9. **Suggested Answer:** His long arms would help him pull himself through the water when he swims. His large feet would help him move more water and push himself forward like "flippers". (Or they would help him kick better when he's swimming.)