

Kobe Bryant



Kobe Bryant was a famous American basketball player who played for the Los Angeles Lakers. Kobe had a successful career and represented the USA at the Olympics twice, winning two gold medals.

Did You Know..?

Kobe was just under 2 metres tall. That's the height of an average door in the UK!

Did You Know..?

Kobe's middle name 'Bean' comes from his father's nickname, which was 'Jellybean'.

Early Life

Kobe Bean Bryant was born on the 23rd August 1978 in the USA. His father, Joe Bryant, was also a famous basketball player. When Kobe was six years old, his family moved to Italy so that his father could continue playing basketball.

When Kobe was 13 years old, the family moved back to the USA. He joined his school's basketball team who then went on to win the state championship. This was the first time in a long while that the school had been able to win!

A Career in Basketball

Kobe had always dreamt of becoming a professional basketball player. When he was 17 years old, he left school to follow that dream. A few months after his 18th birthday, Kobe joined the LA Lakers – a team that he had supported since he was a young boy.

For the next 20 years, Kobe had an incredibly successful career playing for the LA Lakers. The team won the National Basketball Association (NBA) finals several times during his career. Finally, in 2016, Kobe announced that he was going to retire from playing basketball.

American Basketball

Basketball is a game in which teams score points by shooting an orange ball through a hoop. In the USA, basketball is very popular. Each year, millions of people watch the National Basketball Association final.

A basketball team is made up of 12 players in total although only five are allowed on the court at any time. There are several different positions to play in. Kobe mainly played as a shooting guard. The shooting guard's job is to score as many points as possible for their team by shooting the ball into the hoop.

Retiring from Basketball

In 2017, Kobe wrote and narrated a short, animated film called 'Dear Basketball'. This film was used to tell people that he was planning to retire. It begins with Kobe as a young boy, playing basketball with a pair of rolled up socks and a bin. The film finishes with Kobe explaining that it is time for him to retire. When it was released, the film was so popular that it won several awards.

Did You Know..?

Kobe played over 1,000 games of basketball for the LA Lakers.



Questions

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

- ☐ Kobe began playing for the LA Lakers.
- ☐ Kobe wrote 'Dear Basketball'.
- ☐ Kobe left school.
- ☐ Kobe announced that he was retiring.

2. How many players are there in total in a basketball team? Tick one.

- ☐ 15
- ☐ 12
- ☐ 10
- ☐ 6

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

When he was six, Kobe
moved to...

the USA.

When he was 13, Kobe
moved to...

several awards.

Kobe's short film won...

Italy.

While representing the
USA, Kobe won...

two Olympic gold medals.

4. How old was Kobe when he started playing for the LA Lakers? Tick one.

- ☐ 16
- ☐ 17
- ☐ 18
- ☐ 19

5. What did Kobe use as a pretend basketball when he was a young boy?

6. Look at the first paragraph.

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

7. What do you think was going through Kobe's mind when he got picked to join the LA Lakers basketball team?

8. Do you think that Kobe inspired people to play basketball? Explain your answer.
