

MICHAEL JORDAN



Many people consider Michael Jordan the best basketball player in the history of the game. He holds a long list of awards and world records. It might be surprising to know that he was cut from his high school's varsity team in his sophomore year. He worked hard, practiced a lot, and was a top scorer when he made the team the following year.

Michael Jordan was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1963, but his family moved to North Carolina when he was a toddler. In high school, he played baseball, football, and basketball. He played basketball in college, and was College Player of the Year in his sophomore year at the University of North Carolina.

Thanks to his talent and hard work, Michael Jordan is one of the most successful players in the history of basketball. He was voted Most Valuable Player several times, and holds two Olympic gold medals. In 1993, he shocked fans by retiring from basketball to play pro baseball. He was a competent but not outstanding player, and returned to basketball for the 1994-1995 season. His final retirement from basketball came in 2003. He has been a successful businessman since then.

Name _____ Date _____

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ABOUT *MICHAEL JORDAN*

1. When was Michael Jordan cut from the team?
 - a. his freshman year in high school
 - b. his sophomore year in high school
 - c. his sophomore year in college
 - d. never

2. What word best describes Michael Jordan's athletic talent?
 - a. specialized – he was very good in basketball
 - b. versatile – he was excellent at all sports
 - c. temporary – he was only good for a short time
 - d. all of the above

3. According to the article, what is the reason for Michael Jordan' success?
 - a. talent
 - b. hard work
 - c. both talent and hard work
 - d. the article does not say

4. What would you like to be good at when you grow up?
What could you start to do now to achieve this goal?

Name_____ Date_____

Write complete sentences to answer the questions below.

1. Imagine being cut from the team in a sport you love. Describe.

2. Tell how Michael Jordan's success "thanks to hard work" reminds you of an experience you have had (or your family or friends).

3. After reading the story what do you think is meant by "**competent**"?

4. What did you learn about Michael Jordan that you did not know? In what situation might this new information be useful to you?

Name_____ Date_____

Answers to *MICHAEL JORDAN*

Multiple-choice

1. b
2. a
3. c
4. answers will vary.

Short-answer

1. (Answers may vary, accept reasonable answers.)
2. (Answers may vary, accept reasonable answers.)
3. *Competent* = sufficiently able, good enough
4. (Answers may vary, accept reasonable answers.)