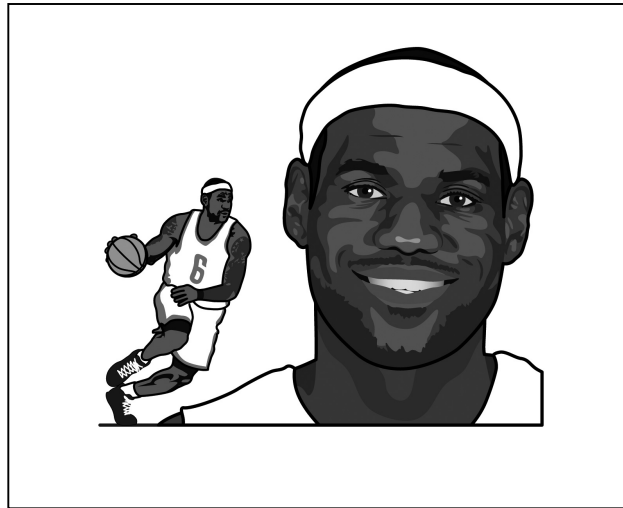


LEBRON JAMES



LeBron James is one of the top players in the NBA. He was the first pick of the 2003 NBA draft. He was the youngest player to win the Rookie of the Year Award.

LeBron James was born on December 30, 1984, in Akron, Ohio. His mother was 16 at the time. His father left them. His mother raised LeBron by herself. LeBron also spent some time living in a foster home.

LeBron was good at sports from an early age. He played both basketball and football in elementary and high school. He decided not to go to university. He wanted to play pro basketball instead. He was drafted first by his hometown, the Cleveland Cavaliers. That year, he became the youngest player ever to win the rookie of the year award, at only the age of 20.

LeBron James joined the basketball team at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School in 1999. He averaged 18 points per game in his first year. His team won a state title that year. LeBron scored 25 points in the Championship game to lead his team to victory.

LeBron was a famous player in high school. He won many high school player of the year awards. He was given the nickname, *King James*.

Name_____ Date_____

LeBron decided not to go to college. He wanted to play professional basketball instead. No one was surprised that LeBron James was selected first in the 2003 NBA draft. He joined the Cleveland Cavaliers as a forward. *King James* also signed several advertising deals around this time. One with Nike paid \$90 million.

During the summer of 2004, LeBron played in the Summer Olympic games in Athens, Greece. He played for the U.S. Olympic Basketball Team. The team won bronze medals.

LeBron made NBA history in 2005 by becoming the youngest player to score more than 50 points in a single game. He was selected for the NBA All-Star game later that year.

LeBron played in the Olympics for a second time in the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, China. This time, the team won gold medals.

LeBron James became a free agent in 2010. He announced he would join the Miami Heat for the 2010-11 season. Some fans in Cleveland felt betrayed that he would leave his hometown. Cleveland Cavaliers majority owner Dan Gilbert wrote an angry open letter calling James selfish, heartless and cowardly. James didn't let this bother him. He scored an average of 26.7 points per game in his first year with the Heat. He continues to impress, as he remains arguably the best basketball player in the World.

LeBron James is married. He has two children. He is active in charity work when he is not playing basketball. He and his mother Gloria created the LeBron James Family Foundation in 2004. The foundation helps children and single-parent families in need.

Name_____ Date_____

Choose the best answer for the questions on this page

1. When was LeBron James born?
 - a. 1974
 - b. 1984
 - c. 1999
 - d. 2003

2. What was the first NBA team James played on?
 - a. Miami Heat
 - b. Boston Celtics
 - c. New York Knicks
 - d. Cleveland Cavaliers

3. What sport did James play in high school, besides basketball?
 - a. Cricket
 - b. Football
 - c. Baseball
 - d. All of the above

4. LeBron James attended
 - a. Tennessee State University
 - b. UCLA
 - c. no university
 - d. Cleveland University

Name_____ Date_____

Write complete sentences to answer the questions .

1. Imagine you are LeBron James winning the Rookie of the Year award. How would you feel?

2. Tell how the criticism of LeBron James for leaving Cleveland reminds you of an experience you or a friend have had.

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

4. What did you learn about LeBron James that you did not know?
How will you use that new information?

Name_____ Date_____

Answers to *LEBRON JAMES*

Multiple-choice

1. b
2. d
3. b
4. c

Short-answer

1. (Answers may vary, accept reasonable answers.)
2. (Answers may vary, accept reasonable answers.)
3. *betray* = let down, be disloyal to
4. (Answers may vary, accept reasonable answers.)