

# Kobe Bryant



Kobe Bryant was a famous American basketball player. He won lots of awards for playing basketball, including two Olympic gold medals.

## 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

When Kobe was 13 years old, he moved back to the USA and he joined his school's basketball team. The school won the state championship for the first time in a long while.

## A Career in Basketball

Kobe dreamt of becoming a professional basketball player. When he was 18 years old, his dream came true. Kobe joined the LA Lakers – a team that he had supported since he was a young boy.

Kobe played for the LA Lakers for the next 20 years. During this time, the team won the National Basketball Association (NBA) finals many times. In 2016, Kobe announced that he was going to stop playing basketball.

## American Basketball

In basketball, teams score points by shooting an orange ball through a hoop. In the USA, basketball is very popular. Millions of people watch the NBA final each year.

A basketball team has 12 players although only five play at the same time. There are different positions to play in. Kobe mainly played as a shooting guard. The shooting guard's job is to score lots of points for their team by shooting the ball into the hoop.

**Retiring from Basketball**

In 2017, Kobe wrote a short, animated film called 'Dear Basketball'. This film was used to tell people that he was going to stop playing basketball. It shows Kobe as a young boy. He was playing basketball with a pair of rolled up socks and a bin. The film ends with Kobe saying that it is time for him to retire. Lots of people enjoyed watching the short film and it won several awards.

**Did You Know..?**

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



# Questions

1. How old was Kobe when his family moved to Italy? Tick one.

- ☐ five
- ☐ six
- ☐ seven
- ☐ eight

2. What position did Kobe play in? Tick one.

- ☐ point guard
- ☐ small forward
- ☐ shooting guard
- ☐ power forward

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

- ☐ Kobe began playing for the LA Lakers.
- ☐ Kobe was born.
- ☐ Kobe retired from playing basketball.
- ☐ Kobe moved back to the USA.

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

One has been done for you.

Kobe's middle name  
comes from...

the LA Lakers.

When Kobe was 13 he...

Dear Basketball.

Kobe's short film  
was called...

his father's nickname.

Kobe played for...

moved back to the USA.

5. For how many years did Kobe play basketball for the LA Lakers?

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6. Name one country that Kobe has lived in.

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7. Do you think that Kobe enjoyed playing basketball? Explain your answer.

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# Answers

1. How old was Kobe when his family moved to Italy? Tick one.

- ☐ five
- ☒ **six**
- ☐ seven
- ☐ eight

2. What position did Kobe play in? Tick one.

- ☐ point guard
- ☐ small forward
- ☒ **shooting guard**
- ☐ power forward

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

- 3** Kobe began playing for the LA Lakers.
- 1** Kobe was born.
- 4** Kobe retired from playing basketball.
- 2** Kobe moved back to the USA.

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

One has been done for you.

Kobe's middle name comes from...	the LA Lakers.
When Kobe was 13 he...	Dear Basketball.
Kobe's short film was called...	his father's nickname.
Kobe played for...	moved back to the USA.

5. For how many years did Kobe play basketball for the LA Lakers?

**Kobe played basketball for the LA Lakers for 20 years.**

6. Name one country that Kobe has lived in.

**Accept either of the following answers: the USA; Italy.**

7. Do you think that Kobe enjoyed playing basketball? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Kobe did enjoy playing basketball because he did it for 20 years and he had always dreamt about playing professionally.**

# 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

# Answers

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

- 2** Kobe began playing for the LA Lakers.
- 4** Kobe wrote 'Dear Basketball'.
- 1** Kobe left school.
- 3** 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?

**Kobe used a pair of rolled up socks 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**.

**career**

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

**Pupils' own responses, such as: "Oh my goodness, I can't believe it! I've been dreaming about this since I was a young boy and now my dream is finally coming true."**

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

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Kobe did inspire people to play basketball because he was really successful. In the text, it says that millions of people watch the NBA finals each year which means that millions of people would have seen him play. Some of those people might have wanted to follow in his footsteps.**

# Kobe Bryant



## Did You Know..?

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

Kobe Bryant was a famous American basketball player who played for the Los Angeles Lakers for 20 years. During his career, Kobe represented the USA at the Olympics twice and won two gold medals.

## 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 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1978 in Philadelphia, which is a city in the USA. His father, Joe Bryant, was a famous basketball player who also played for National Basketball Association (NBA) teams. When Kobe was six years old, his family moved to Italy so that his father could continue playing basketball. While there, Kobe learned how to speak fluent Italian.

Several years later, when Kobe was 13, the family moved back to the USA. Kobe joined his school's basketball team who then went on to win the state championship. This was the first time that the school had won the championship in a long time!

## A Career in Basketball

Since he was six years old, Kobe had dreamt of becoming a professional basketball player. When he was 17, he decided to leave school to follow his dream. A few months after his 18<sup>th</sup> 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. With Kobe playing for them, the team won the NBA finals multiple times during his career. Finally, in 2016, Kobe announced that he was going to retire from the game.

## American Basketball

Basketball is a game in which teams score points by shooting an orange ball through a hoop. In the USA, basketball is incredibly popular and millions of people tune in to watch the National Basketball Association (NBA) final each year.

A basketball team consists of 12 players 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 entitled 'Dear Basketball'. This film was based on the letter that he wrote to announce his retirement from the sport. The film begins with Kobe as a young boy, playing basketball with a pair of rolled up socks and a bin. It finishes with Kobe explaining that his body is telling him that it is time to retire. When it was released, the film was so popular that it won several awards – including one for the best animated short.

## Did You Know..?

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



# Questions

1. In what year did Kobe announce that he was retiring from basketball? Tick one.

- ☐ 2015
- ☐ 2016
- ☐ 2017
- ☐ 2018

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

- ☐ Kobe moved back to the USA.
- ☐ Kobe joined the LA Lakers.
- ☐ Kobe moved to Italy.
- ☐ Kobe wrote 'Dear Basketball'.

3. Look at the section titled **A Career in Basketball**

Find and copy one word or phrase which shows that Kobe performed very well in his job.

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4. What does NBA stand for?

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5. Why did Kobe decide to retire from playing basketball?

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6. Do you think that Kobe had to work hard to be successful? Explain your answer.

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7. Kobe used his short film 'Dear Basketball' to announce that he was retiring from basketball. Do you think that this was a good idea? Explain your answer.

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8. What skills do you think Kobe would have needed to be a successful shooting guard? Explain your answer.

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# Answers

1. In what year did Kobe announce that he was retiring from basketball? Tick one.

- ☐ 2015  
☒ **2016**  
☐ 2017  
☐ 2018

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

- 2** Kobe moved back to the USA.  
**3** Kobe joined the LA Lakers.  
**1** Kobe moved to Italy.  
**4** Kobe wrote 'Dear Basketball'.

3. Look at the section titled **A Career in Basketball**

Find and copy one word or phrase which shows that Kobe performed very well in his job.  
**(an incredibly) successful career**

4. What does NBA stand for?

**NBA stands for National Basketball Association.**

5. Why did Kobe decide to retire from playing basketball?

**Kobe decided to retire from playing basketball because his body was telling him that it was time to retire.**

6. Do you think that Kobe had to work hard to be successful? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Kobe had to work very hard to be successful because it says that he played basketball from a young age. He was in school's basketball team when he was 13 and didn't join the LA Lakers until 5 years later, which shows that he must have worked hard to get there.**

7. Kobe used his short film 'Dear Basketball' to announce that he was retiring from basketball. Do you think that this was a good idea? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that this was a good idea because it explained to people why he was retiring. Without the film, people might have just thought that he was being lazy or didn't like the sport any more.**

8. What skills do you think Kobe would have needed to be a successful shooting guard? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Kobe would have needed to be quick and good at aiming. This is because the main job of the shooting guard is to score points and they do that by shooting the ball into the hoop.**