

John Madden Reading Comprehension

Name \_\_\_\_\_

John Madden was born on April 10th, 1936, in Austin, Minnesota, but lived most of his childhood in California. Madden was an outstanding high school football player and ultimately played in college at California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo. Although he was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles, a knee injury destroyed any chance of a professional career in football.

Madden, who majored in education, quickly took to coaching. He served various coaching roles at Allen Hancock College and San Diego State, before being hired as linebacker coach for the Oakland Raiders. When the Raiders head coach resigned in 1969, Madden was promoted to head coach. At the time, the 32-year-old Madden was the youngest person to be hired as head coach in NFL history. Madden proved one of the greatest coaches in Raiders history, leading them to their first Super Bowl Championship in 1977 with a 32-14 victory over the Minnesota Vikings. He retired from coaching the following year. As of 2018, he is still the youngest coach in NFL history to reach 100 wins.

Following his coaching career, Madden became a popular broadcaster and was widely considered the sport's most knowledgeable and entertaining commentator. For over 30 years, Madden appeared on NBC, CBS, Fox Sports, and Monday Night Football and called eleven super bowls. Madden's exclamatory style, invented words and phrases, and use of the telestrator contributed to his popularity. A telestrator is a tool that allowed him to draw diagrams on the screen which would help people understand the details of NFL plays. In 1984, he introduced the "All-Madden Team" which comprised the players he deemed to be toughest. Interestingly, John Madden was terrified of flying airplanes and traveled from city-to-city by train or custom-built "Madden cruiser" bus. Madden was elected to the Professional Football Hall-of-Fame in 2006. In 2009, Super Bowl XLIII, in which the Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the Arizona Cardinals.

Today's youth know John Madden from the popular John Madden's Football video game series. Popularly known simply as "Madden," John Madden has lent his voice, personality, and insights to the game since 1988. Since it was first released, it has sold over 120 million copies. Despite its enormous popularity, Madden is most proud of how it teaches people about the detailed nature of football. According to him, it serves as a "way to for people to learn the game at a pretty sophisticated level."

**1. What happened last?**

- A. Madden became the youngest head coach in NFL history (at the time).
- B. Madden coached at Allan Hancock College and San Diego State
- C. Madden became linebacker coach for the Oakland Raiders
- D. 1970

**2. When did John Madden win his first Super Bowl?**

- A. Early in his coaching career with the Raiders
- B. Late in his coaching career with the Raiders
- C. 1969
- D. When he was a linebacker coach

**3. Which of the following is NOT answered?**

- A. Why was John Madden a popular broadcaster?
- B. How many games did John Madden win in total with the Oakland Raiders?
- C. What different jobs did John Madden work after it was clear he could not play professional football?
- D. How many super bowls did John Madden call?

**4. What does “custom-built” mean in the following sentence?**

Interestingly, John Madden was terrified of flying airplanes and traveled from city-to-city by train or custom-built "Madden cruiser" bus.

- A. expensive
- B. built to John Madden's specifications
- C. built to hold lots of people
- D. built to ride smoothly on highways

**5. Why did people enjoy Madden's use of the telestrator?**

- A. The telestrator made watching football more interesting
- B. People liked to hear John Madden's voice
- C. People enjoyed watching Madden draw lines on the screen
- D. It helped people understand complex plays

**6. Which of the following would most likely reflect the of a sixth grade student?**

- A. I know who John Madden is because he coached the Oakland Raiders to their first Super Bowl victory
- B. I know who John Madden is because his name is on my favorite video game
- C. I know who John Madden is because he called eleven super bowls
- D. I know who John Madden is because my favorite player made the "All-Madden Team"

**7. To which of the following questions would “fear of flying” be the answer?**

- A. How did John Madden travel from city to city?
- B. Why did John Madden retire from coaching?
- C. Why did John Madden travel by train or bus?
- D. Why is John Madden so proud of his video game?