

Shaquille O' Neal Reading Comprehension

Name _____

Shaquille “Shaq” O’Neal, one of the most prominent players in the history of the National Basketball Association (NBA), was born on March 6, 1972 in Newark, New Jersey. O’Neal went to college at Louisiana State University and began playing the center position for the school’s basketball team. At 7’1” and over 300 pounds, O’Neal was a dominant and intimidating force on the hardwood. While on Louisiana State’s basketball team, he was named college player of the year in 1991. In 1992, Shaq dropped out of college following his junior year in order to pursue a career with the NBA.

Once signed, Shaq played his first rookie season with the Orlando Magic. That season, he finished in the top 10 for scoring, rebounding, blocks, and shooting percentage, despite struggling mightily from the free-throw line. Shaq became the first player in NBA history to be named Player of the Week during his very first week in the league.

In 1996, Shaq signed the biggest contract in NBA history when he signed with the Los Angeles Lakers—receiving a sum of money of 120 million dollars. During that same year, he played with the US Dream Team that won Olympic Gold in Atlanta, Georgia. Shaq was named NBA’s Most Valuable Player in 2000, continuing the forward motion of his career.

Shaq was traded to the Miami Heat team following disagreements about the Lakers’ team management, and led the team to an NBA championship win in 2006 – the fourth one of his career. He went on to score his 25,000th point during the 2006-2007 basketball season and played for the Phoenix Suns, Cleveland Cavaliers, and Boston Celtics. In June 2011, Shaq announced his intent to retire from the NBA after an illustrious career.

Following his retirement, Shaq was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2016. He didn’t fully exit the basketball world, however, as he then became an NBA analyst for TNT’s program “Inside the NBA.” Shaq has also appeared in several films and had a side career as a rapper. He has a Masters of Business Administration and has also spent some time in the law enforcement division. A man of many hats, the seven-foot-one-inch tall basketball player has certainly made his mark on the sports industry and beyond.

- 1. Shaq is 7 feet and 1 inch tall. One foot is 12 inches. How tall is Shaq, in inches?**
 - a. 30 inches
 - b. 85 inches
 - c. 100 inches
 - d. 200 inches

- 2. Which statement is supported by the passage?**
 - a. Shaq's basketball career began in college.
 - b. Shaq was born on the west coast of the United States.
 - c. Shaq graduated from college.
 - d. Shaq never played basketball at Louisiana State.

- 3. For which team did Shaq not play during his career?**
 - a. Los Angeles Lakers
 - b. Orlando Magic
 - c. Cleveland Cavaliers
 - d. Washington Mystics

- 4. Which was an accomplishment of Shaq's during his career?**
 - a. Winning Olympic gold
 - b. NBA MVP
 - c. Scoring over 25,000 points
 - d. All of the above

- 5. What is the best title for this passage?**
 - a. Shaquille O'Neal's Filmography
 - b. Shaq's Basketball Career: An Overview
 - c. Shooting a Free Throw: Step-By-Step Walkthrough
 - d. MVP: Shaq's time at Louisiana State

- 6. Which line from the passage supports the statement that Shaq involved himself with pursuits beyond the sports world?**
 - a. Shaq was named NBA's Most Valuable Player in 2000, continuing the forward motion of his career.
 - b. In June 2011, Shaq announced his intent to retire from the NBA after an illustrious career.
 - c. Shaq has also appeared in several films and had a side career as a rapper.
 - d. Following his retirement, Shaq was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2016.

- 7. With which statement would Shaq most likely agree?**
 - a. Play baseball in college instead of basketball.
 - b. If you're good at something, never try anything else.
 - c. Work hard, and showcase your talents.
 - d. Sports analytics is a dying field.

Answers

1. B
2. A
3. D
4. D
5. B
6. C
7. C