

MICHAEL PHELPS



Most people think that Michael Phelps is the best swimmer of all time! At the Olympics, where the fastest swimmers in the world compete every four years, Phelps has been the most successful swimmer in Olympic history.

Michael Phelps was born in Maryland on June 30, 1985. He was diagnosed with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) as a child. He started swimming when he was seven because he had so much energy. By age ten, he already had set a national record in his age group. When he was just 15, he qualified to swim in the Olympics!

Phelps has the perfect body for swimming. His upper body is long and thin. His arms are long and his legs are short. He has large feet. Together with hard work, these qualities made him a champion.

Winners of Olympic races are awarded gold medals. At the 2008 Olympic Games in China, Phelps set a record by winning gold medals at a single Olympic competition. That record has not been broken.

Phelps also set a record for the most Olympic medals won by any athlete ever, in any sport. He has competed in five

separate Olympic Games. At the 2012 Olympics, in England, Phelps set the record for the largest number of Olympic medals ever won by an individual athlete. At his final Olympics, held in 2016 in Brazil, Phelps broke his own record! Altogether, in his lifetime, Phelps has won 23 Olympic gold medals, and a total of 28 Olympic medals.

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ABOUT *MICHAEL PHELPS*

1. Michael Phelps began swimming at the age of seven. *How did swimming help Michael Phelps?* Use details from the text to support your answer:

2. What is the **main idea** of this biography? Write **four key ideas** that help you know that this is the main idea:

3. According to the article, what contributes to Phelps' success at swimming?

- a. His intelligence
- b. His sense of humor
- c. His family
- d. His body

4. Which best describes the overall structure, or organization, of this text?

- a. Cause-effect
- b. Compare/Contrast
- c. Time-order/Sequence
- d. Problem-Solution

5. Explain how you know your answer to question 4 is correct:

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6. The author states that most people **think that Michael Phelps is the best swimmer of all time**. Do you agree or disagree? Explain why:

7. Read the last 2 paragraphs. Michael Phelps set an Olympic record in the 2008 Olympics, and set another Olympic record in 2012 and 2016. How were his Olympic records **the SAME and DIFFERENT?**

8. How old was Michael Phelps when he swam in his last Olympic Games in 2016? Use details from the text to prove that your answer is correct.

9. How do you think that **long arms and large feet** helped Michael Phelps swim well?
