Pelé

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While reading

Pages 1–3

1 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

a Pelé's real name is Pelé Edson Arantes do Nascimento. ☐
b His nickname at home was Dico. ☐
c Pelé was born in Brazil. ☐
d He played a total of 1,363 matches and scored a goal in only half of them. ☐
e Besides soccer, Pelé is skilled at medicine and flying. ☐
f When Pelé was 4 years old his family moved to Bauru, where his father had a good job. ☐
g Pelé's first game of soccer was played with a ball made of paper. ☐
h His dream was always to be a soccer player. ☐
i Pelé was not a good student at school. ☐
j Pelé's family loved each other, even though they had a lot of problems. ☐

2 Finish these sentences. Match A and B.

A	B
a When Pelé got his first job he was	1) 8 years old.
	2) 18 years old.
b At Bauru station, Pelé worked as a	3) office cleaner.
	4) shoe cleaner.
c When Pelé witnessed a plane crash	5) he decided to work at an airport.
	6) he lost his dream of working with planes.

3 Pelé's mother wanted her son to become a doctor. Why do you think she wanted this? Write a few sentences.

Pages 4–7

4 Put the names in the correct places.

Santos September 7 Valdemar de Brito
Baquinho Ameriquinho Dondinho

a Pelé's soccer teacher was his father, ...
b Pelé and his friends started a soccer club called ..... .
c The name of their team changed to ..... when they were given new shoes.
d In Bauru, the main soccer club ran a team for young players called ..... .
e ..... was the manager of this team.
f ..... was a very famous soccer club in Brazil.

5 Look at the picture on page 6. Write a new caption for the picture.

Pages 7–11

6 Answer these questions.

a When did Pelé join Brazil's national team?
b How old was he at that time?
c How many goals did Pelé score in his first World Cup?
d How many players did Brazil normally take to the World Cup?
e How many World Cup matches did Pelé attend?

Pages 11–12

7 Answer these questions.

a Who was Zito?
b What was the name of 'the difficult girl'?
c The 'difficult girl' later became Pelé's wife. How old was she when they met?
d Where was she working at the time that they met?

Pages 12–15

8 Close your books. Choose the correct answers.

a Pelé played for *Santos* for …..
1) 8 years.
2) 18 years.
3) 20 years.

b Between 1956 and 1974, Santos won …..
1) The World Cup three times, the South American Club Championship three times and the Brazilian Championship five times.
2) The World Cup five times, the South American Club Championship three times and the Brazilian Championship three times.
3) The World Cup five times, the South American Club Championship five times and the Brazilian Championship five times.

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1 Match the people (a–e) with the quotations (1–5).

a Rosemeri Cholby to Pelé. …..
b Pelé's father to his mother. …..
c Zito to Pelé. …..
d Pelé's mother to Pelé. …..
e Valdemar de Brito to Pelé's father. …..

1) 'Dico has soccer player's legs.'
2) 'He's a very good soccer player. He can try for a job with *Santos*.'
3) 'She works in a music store.'
4) 'There's no money in the game.'
5) 'But I don't like soccer.'

2 Look at the sentences below. There are 10 mistakes. Correct them.

Pelé is the number one star in the history of American football. He was born in Brazil in 1940. His nickname at home was Edson. His father was a doctor named Dondinho. His mother wanted him to be a soccer player. As a young man Pelé wanted to be a doctor. Pelé's first job was as a shoe cleaner at Bauru airport. He joined *Santos* when he was 10 years old. The first World Cup he played in was in Spain. He scored six goals and Brazil lost. His wife Rosemeri was a big soccer fan.

3 Answer these questions.

a Which languages does Pelé speak? …..
1) Portuguese, French, Italian, Spanish, English
2) Portuguese, French, German, Spanish English
3) Portuguese, French, Swedish, Italian, English

b How many countries did Pelé visit during his soccer career? …..
1) 68
2) 77
3) 88

c What was the name of Pelé's mother? …..
1) Dico
2) Celeste
3) Celine

d The soccer World Cup Championships take place every ….. years.
1) four
2) five
3) six

e When Pelé was 11 he played in a team called September 7. Some people called them …..
1) The Americans
2) The team with no shoes
3) The beautiful game

4 Finish the sentences and complete the crossword puzzle.

a A word to describe a sportsman or woman who wins the most medals. ……
b In 1958, Brazil …… Sweden to win the World Cup.
c In 1965 Pelé …… Rosemeri Cholby.
d Pelé played his …… match in 1977.
e Pelé could not play in all of the matches of the 1966 World Cup because of …… .

5 Put these sentences in the right order. Number them 1–10.

a ☐ Pelé worked as shoe cleaner.
b ☐ He and another player called Zito became good friends.
c ☐ Pelé met a young girl called Rosemeri.
d ☐ Pelé was accepted onto the Santos team.
e ☐ Pelé moved to New York.
f ☐ He played his final game for Santos.
g ☐ He started to work for the Brazilian government.
h ☐ In 1948, he started school.
i ☐ Pelé started his own soccer team with his friends.
j ☐ In 1958 he played in his first World Cup.

6 Match A and B.

A	B
a win	1) A person who supports and watches a particular team.
b score	2) A group of people who play or work together.
c stadium	3) A person who works as the 'boss' of a team.
d team	4) To come first in a competition.
e fan	5) A place where sports events are held.
f manager	6) To win a point in a competition.

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