

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## *Biographies: Pelé*



Edson Arantes do Nascimento, better known as Pelé, was born in Três Corações, Minas Gerais, Brazil, on October 23, 1940. His parents were João Ramos do Nascimento, called Dondinho, and Maria Celeste Arantes. His father had been a player on the Fluminense team, Atlético Mineiro, when his promising football career was cut short by a knee injury, which forced him to be just an average player. When Dondinho was hired by the BAC, the family moved to Bauru.

Pelé was named Edson in honor of Thomas Edison because the electric bulb arrived in his hometown the same year that Pelé was born. His nickname "Pele" was given to him by the boys with whom he played soccer as a child. He hated the nickname so much that he had a fight with the boys who called him that. His other nickname, "the king", was given to him by a French magazine specialized in soccer.

Edson, Pelé, entered the lower divisions on the Baquinho team at the BAC where his father played. While there, he was trained by former player Waldemar de Brito, who had been on the Brazilian team in the 1934 World Cup. Waldemar de Brito was the one who helped Pelé perfect his game and convinced his mother, who did not see football as a profession, to let Edson try out for the Santos. So, Edson left home and his job in a shoe factory to play with the Santos in São Paulo.



Pelé spent most of his football career at Santos club, which became one of the best teams in the world at that time. With Pelé on the team, Santos won nine Paulista Championships, three Rio-São Paulo Tournaments, six Brazilian Serie A Championships, two Copa Libertadores, two Intercontinental Cups and one Intercontinental Champions Super Cup. Pelé is Santos' top scorer, with 474 goals during his stay at the club.



Pelé debuted with the Brazilian national team at the Maracana Stadium when he was only 16 years old, against the Argentine team. He scored his first goal with the Brazilian team there. Between the years 1957 and 1971, Pele scored 77 goals with the national team, becoming the top scorer. With the Brazilian team, he won the World Cups of 1958, 1962 and 1970.

On Sunday July 18, 1971, Pele retired from playing international competitions with the Brazilian national team. He had played on the national team for 15 years.

After obtaining all the possible titles and having achieved more than a thousand goals scored in official matches, Pele announced his retirement from football in 1974. To promote this sport in the United States, he signed with the Cosmos in New York, a team consisting of a group of great soccer figures.

On October 1, 1977, at the age of 36, Pele permanently retired from football in a match between Santos and the Cosmos, in front of 75,000 spectators. Pele played a time for each team. He scored a goal for Cosmos in the first half, but did not score for Santos, and the game ended with Cosmos winning 2-1. With this last game, Pele reached the incredible figure of 1367 games played and 1283 goals.



After permanently retiring in 1977, Pelé received numerous awards and recognitions, such as the International Peace Prize (1978) and Athlete of the Century (1980). Pele, a true king of football with a reputation without borders.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Why was Pele named Edson in honor of Thomas Edison?
  - a. Because the father's name was Edson.
  - b. Because the parents liked that name.
  - c. Because the electric bulb arrived in his hometown the same year that Pelé was born.
  - d. Because Pele was the name he did not like.
  
2. What is the name of the team Pele played with the longest?
  - a. Fluminense
  - b. Atlético Mineiro
  - c. Santos
  - d. BAC
  
3. Who was Pelé's first professional coach?
  - a. Waldemar de Brito
  - b. João Ramos
  - c. Thomas Edison
  - d. Baquinho
  
4. How many goals did Pelé score with the Brazilian team?
  - a. 1283
  - b. 474
  - c. 241
  - d. 77
  
5. On Sunday, July 18, 1971, at the age of 36, Pele permanently retired from football.
  - a. True
  - b. False

