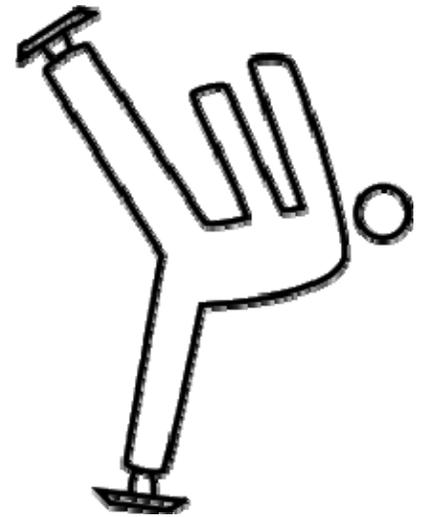


Name _____

Scott Hamilton – Ice Skating Legend

Scott Hamilton is one of the most respected athletes in the world. An adopted child, Scott's parents had to keep a careful eye on him from a young age. When he was just a toddler he could outsmart any child-proof device and had no fear of heights. Always small for his age, by the age of four Scotty stopped growing. Doctors could not diagnose the problem and Scott ended up being fed by a tube through his nose. He spent much of his early life in hospitals.



His young life turned around when Scott discovered figure skating around the age of nine. After he started skating, for some reason his health improved and Scott turned into a normal fourth grader, just small for his age. Scott's skating ability improved. Like all parents of ice skating champions, Scott's parents sacrificed to pay for expensive coaching, rental fees for the ice rink, costumes and travel to competitions.

When Scott was twelve he traveled from his hometown in Ohio to California for a major competition where he won second place in free-style skating and third in ice dancing. Unfortunately his Mother died when he was nineteen. From then on he dedicated his energy and focus on becoming a champion in honor of the sacrifices she had made to support his skating career.



Name _____

In 1980 Scott qualified to compete in the Winter Olympics and was selected to carry the American flag into the Opening ceremonies. The following year, Scott won both the American national title and became the men's world figure skating champion. He went on to win three consecutive world championships followed by Olympic Gold in 1984.

After Scott ended his amateur career, he skated professionally. He created his successful Stars on Ice show and did a number of television specials. He also worked as a commentator for televised ice skating competitions. However, his success was interrupted in March 1997 when he was diagnosed with cancer. He had chemotherapy and surgery to remove the tumor. During his bout with cancer, Scott received over 55,000 cards from well-wishers around the world. With great effort, Scott Hamilton returned to please an audience of 10,000 fans with his regained skating ability. In 1997, Scott said, "I firmly believe that the only disability in life is a bad attitude."



Name _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. Where was Scott Hamilton's hometown?
 - a. California
 - b. Oklahoma
 - c. Ohio
 - d. None of the above

2. How old was Scotty when he stopped growing?
 - a. Toddler
 - b. Age 4
 - c. Age 9
 - d. Age 12

3. We can infer from the reading that championship ice skating is
 - a. Expensive
 - b. Inexpensive
 - c. Supported by the government
 - d. None of the above

4. At the 1980 Winter Olympics Scott Hamilton
 - a. Carried the Olympic torch
 - b. Won a Gold Medal
 - c. Won a second place medal
 - d. Carried the American flag

5. Scott Hamilton has won ice skating championships including
 - a. National champion
 - b. World champion
 - c. Olympic champion
 - d. All of the above

6. Scott Hamilton returned to ice skating after
 - a. Chemotherapy for cancer
 - b. Surgery for cancer
 - c. Both a. and b. above
 - d. None of the above



Name _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Short Answer Questions

1. Scotty is the diminutive form of the name Scott just like Billy is the diminutive form of the name Bill and Johnny is the diminutive form of John. Find out what the diminutive form of a name means.
2. What is a toddler? How old are toddlers?
3. When Scott was just two years old his father left a ladder propped against the side of the house after doing some repairs to the roof. A little while later he discovered that Scott had climbed the ladder and was on the roof. Sometimes when Scott's mother couldn't find him, she finally would find him in the kitchen cabinet above the refrigerator. If you were one of Scott's parents, how would you keep him safe yet still allow him freedom to explore?
4. Do some research and find out why competitive skating is called figure skating.
5. Explain the difference between figure skating and speed skating.
6. What was Scott's motivation to succeed as an ice skating champion?
7. What did Scott Hamilton mean when he said, "I firmly believe that the only disability in life is a bad attitude?"



Name _____

Answer Key

Multiple Choice

1. c.
2. b.
3. a.
4. d.
5. d.
6. c.

Short Answer

1. Adding the letter "y" to a child's name is one way to get a diminutive form for the name. Diminutive means small, so Scotty is a way to refer to the child named Scott and Billy is the child named Bill. It is a pet name used to show affection.

2. A toddler is a young child who is learning to walk. Toddlers are 10 to 23 months old.

3. Individual response

4. In early competitions, skaters were required to skate particular patterns, like a figure 8, during competition. So the sport was called figure skating. Skaters no longer are required to skate figures in competition.

5. Speed skating is a race where the fastest skater wins. In figure skating, skaters do a performance alone or in a pair with another skater on the ice. Judges award points to the performances and the skater or pair with the highest score wins.

6. Scott's Mother died when he was nineteen. From then on he dedicated his energy and focus on becoming a champion in honor of the sacrifices she had made to support his skating career.

7. Individual response

