

Name _____

NCAA March Madness: The Thrills of College Basketball

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Cinderella stories in March Madness are significant because they represent the underdog spirit and the belief that anything is possible in sports. These upsets capture the imagination of fans because they defy expectations and create dramatic moments. Cinderella stories remind us that success in sports is not solely determined by rankings, and they exemplify the magic of the tournament.
2. March Madness has a profound cultural impact in the United States. It brings people together through office pools, watch parties, and friendly competitions. The tournament creates a sense of camaraderie and excitement as fans from all walks of life come together to celebrate the excitement of college basketball. It's eagerly anticipated each year because of the thrilling and unpredictable nature of the games.
3. The championship game of March Madness is the culmination of the tournament's thrills. It represents the culmination of weeks of intense competition, and fans eagerly anticipate this game as it determines the national champion. The atmosphere is electric, and the excitement is palpable as the two best teams face off to claim the title.
4. Answers may vary for the most iconic moment in the history of March Madness, as different fans may have different favorites. Examples of iconic moments include Christian Laettner's buzzer-beater in 1992, Villanova's buzzer-beater in 2016, and the historic rivalry between Larry Bird and Magic Johnson in 1979.

