

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## From Leather Helmets to Super Bowls: The History of the National Football League (NFL)

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The NFL has evolved from its early days of leather helmets and rough gameplay to become a global powerhouse. Factors contributing to its growth include television broadcasting, the Super Bowl's annual spectacle, the emergence of iconic players and dynasties, advancements in player safety, and its role in addressing social issues.
2. The NFL has taken steps to address social issues and promote inclusivity through initiatives like "Inspire Change," which focuses on social justice and racial equality. The league also celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month and promotes diversity in hiring practices.
3. "The Greatest Game Ever Played," the 1958 NFL Championship Game, is significant because it was the first NFL game televised nationally. It captured the hearts of viewers, paving the way for the NFL's future success in television broadcasting and fandom.
4. The Super Bowl has become more than just a football game due to its incorporation of halftime shows featuring A-list performers, high-budget commercials that generate buzz, and the communal aspect of fans gathering to watch the game. Its global appeal lies in its entertainment value beyond football itself.

