

Name _____

Pelé: The Soccer Legend's Enduring Legacy

Short Answer Key

1. Pelé's early introduction to soccer occurred when he played barefoot in the streets of his hometown, Três Corações, Brazil. His exceptional talent was noticed by local coaches, leading him to join a youth team at the age of 15. This early exposure to the sport influenced his future career as a soccer player.
2. Pelé set several remarkable records during his soccer career, including scoring an astounding 1,281 goals in official matches and winning three FIFA World Cups (1958, 1962, and 1970). These records reflect his incredible goal-scoring ability and his status as one of the greatest soccer players in history.
3. Pelé used his status as a global soccer ambassador to advocate for causes beyond soccer. He promoted peace, education, and social justice, working to improve the lives of underprivileged children and communities through charitable initiatives and humanitarian efforts.
4. Pelé's impact on popularizing soccer in countries where it was not widely followed was significant. His charisma and sportsmanship made him a beloved figure, attracting new fans to the sport. His influence helped soccer become a global phenomenon and fostered international connections through the love of the game.
5. Pelé contributed to improving the lives of underprivileged children and communities through various charitable initiatives, including the Pelé Foundation. This part of his legacy is important because it demonstrates his commitment to using his influence for positive social change and making a difference in the lives of those in need.

