

Name _____

Wayne Gretzky: The Great One

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Wayne Gretzky's records in the NHL are significant because they demonstrate his unparalleled scoring and playmaking abilities. His career goals, assists, and points records remain unbroken because of his extraordinary skill set and consistency as a player. Gretzky's vision on the ice allowed him to make incredible passes and set up teammates for goals, making him a dominant force in the league.
2. Wayne Gretzky's leadership and scoring prowess were instrumental in the Edmonton Oilers' success in winning four Stanley Cup championships in five years. His ability to lead by example and create scoring opportunities for his teammates made the Oilers a formidable team. Gretzky's impact extended beyond his individual achievements, as he elevated the play of those around him.
3. Wayne Gretzky's move to the Los Angeles Kings in 1988 played a significant role in popularizing hockey in the United States. His presence in a non-traditional hockey market like Los Angeles increased the visibility of the sport, attracting new fans and inspiring young players. Gretzky's status as a superstar player brought attention to the NHL and helped expand its fan base in the United States.
4. Wayne Gretzky's humility, graciousness, and continued involvement in coaching and executive roles contributed to his reputation as a role model and influential figure in the world of hockey. His willingness to share his knowledge and passion for the game with future generations of players and his commitment to the sport's growth have left a lasting impact on the hockey community. Gretzky's character and dedication continue to inspire those involved in the sport.