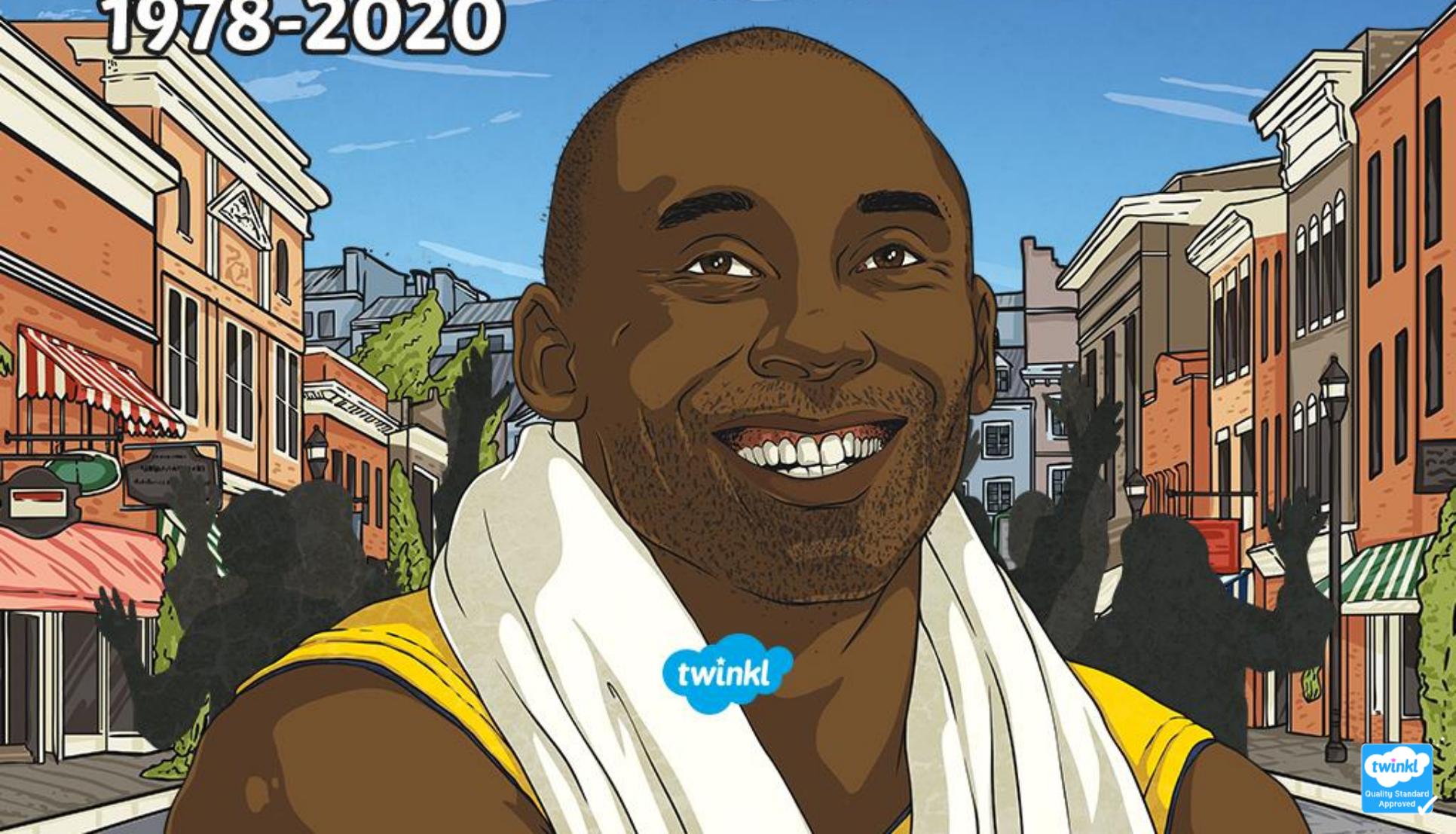


All About Kobe Bryant

1978-2020



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Who Was Kobe Bryant?

Kobe Bryant was an American basketball player, who spent many years of his career playing for the Los Angeles (LA) Lakers.



He also won two gold medals as part of the United States Olympic basketball team.

He has been described as a basketball genius and one of the most important players of his generation.



Early Life

Kobe Bean Bryant was born on 23rd August 1978.

His father had been a famous basketball player, whose nickname was 'Jellybean,' which is how Kobe got his middle name, Bean. He grew up with his two older sisters, Sharia and Shaya.

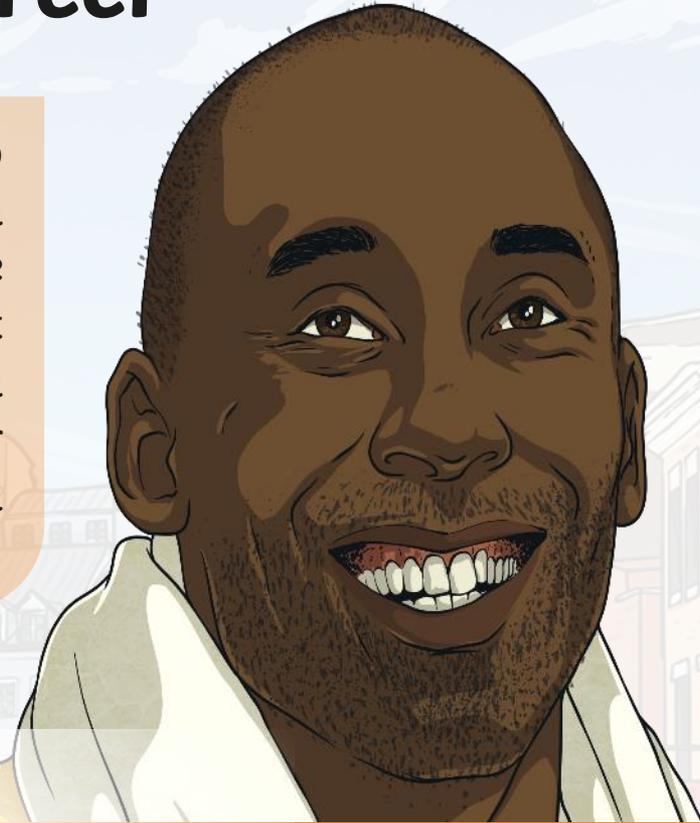
When he was six years old, Kobe's family moved to Italy, where his father played in the Italian basketball league.

The family eventually returned to live in the United States and Kobe began to play basketball at school. He demonstrated great talent.



Career

At the age of 17, Kobe left school to see if he could make it as a professional basketball player. He was signed to the LA Lakers just after his 18th birthday and set a record as the youngest person ever to be a member of the National Basketball Association (NBA).



Did you know?

Kobe had supported the LA Lakers throughout his childhood.



Basketball and Beyond

Kobe Bryant played for the LA Lakers for twenty years, until he retired in 2016.

Kobe's position in basketball was 'shooting guard'. This role required him to shoot the ball through the hoop to score as many points as possible for the team.

Kobe also represented his country in the sport. At the Beijing Olympics in 2008, he and the basketball team won a gold medal.

They repeated this success by winning gold again in the 2012 London Olympics.



Achievements

Kobe Bryant achieved a lot during his lifetime.



He helped the LA Lakers win the NBA championships five times.

He became the youngest player to appear in 1000 games on 23 February 2010.



Just before he retired, in 2016, Kobe had reached over 33,000 lifetime points in basketball, one of only a few people ever to achieve a score this high.

In 2018, he won an Oscar for his five minute film 'Dear Basketball'.



Fast Facts



Kobe was nearly two metres tall.



The gym at his school – Lower Merion High School – was named after him.



He wore the numbers 8 and 24 during his career with the Lakers.



After suffering injuries to his knee and shoulder, Kobe retired from professional basketball.



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