

Friday – Reading Comprehension

Sir Bradley Wiggins Biography

Read the text on the following pages then answer the questions below.

1. When and where was Bradley Wiggins born?

2. What does the word 'decorated' mean in the sentence below?

'Bradley has become one of the most decorated British athletes.'

3. Read the 'Early Life' paragraph. Find and copy the word which means skilled and qualified?

4. List three events where Bradley won gold medals.

5. Read the first paragraph of 'Early Life'. Find and copy a synonym for each of the words below.

reliable

dream

practise

6. Why did Bradley not compete in any major track races between 2005 and 2007?

7. Write three facts about the Tour de France that we learn from the text.

8. List Bradley's 2016 achievements.

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9. Why does the author compare Bradley's top speed to that of a car travelling on a motorway?

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10. Number the events 1- 5 to show the order in which they occurred in Bradley's life.

Won 5 gold medals at the Rio Olympics.	
First British athlete for 40 years to win 3 medals in one Olympic Games.	
Competed in the 'Six Days of Ghent' competition.	
Won the Individual Pursuit at the Junior World Championships.	
Awarded Sports Personality of the Year.	

Additional Resources – Reading Comprehension

Sir Bradley Wiggins Biography

Sir Bradley Marc Wiggins is a British road and track cyclist. He has won both the World Championships and the Olympic Games. He is in fact, so far, the only cyclist to win the Tour de France and an Olympic gold medal in the same year, in 2012. He is also the only person to win a Grand Tour and a gold medal in track cycling. He has won a multitude of medals and has become one of the most decorated British athletes for the Olympic Games.

Early Life

Bradley Wiggins was born on the 28th April, 1980 in Ghent, Belgium. He moved to London with his mother when he was young and learned to ride a bike in Hyde Park. Bradley grew up without really knowing his father; all he knew was that he was a professional cyclist. Bradley loved sports. In fact, when Bradley was young, he trialled to play for West Ham United football club.

Professional Career

Bradley was first encouraged to try cycling after watching Chris Boardman in the 1992 Olympic Games. It became his ambition. Bradley started his career racing on the track. He was invited to train at the Manchester National Cycling Centre as a youngster and at the time people could already see that Bradley had the talent to go far. Bradley is a consistent rider; during his career, he has won so many medals, titles and competitions that it would be impossible to include them all in one biography. Instead, Bradley has written four books to tell his tale.

Bradley won the individual pursuit at the UCI Junior Track Cycling World Championships in 1998, only six years after being inspired by Chris Boardman. Later on in 1998, he won his first senior silver medal at the Commonwealth Games, which was a team pursuit. In the Olympic Games in Sydney in 2000, Bradley won bronze in the team pursuit and came fourth in the Madison with Rob Hayles. Later on in the same year, he won silver in the team pursuit at the Track World Championships in Manchester. In 2001, Bradley was able to achieve medals on the road as well as on track, winning the Cinturón a Mallorca and Flèche du Sud - two annual road races held in Spain and Luxembourg. Bradley also collected several track medals that year.

In 2004, Bradley became the first British athlete in forty years to win three medals in one Olympic Games. He won a gold, a silver and a bronze that year in Athens, Greece. For the next three years, however, Bradley did not compete in any major track races and spent his time focussing on road racing.

Bradley competed in the Track World Championships, winning three golds in 2008. Later that year, he was awarded with two gold medals in the Beijing Olympics. Wiggins took a break from track racing after the 2008 Olympics as he wanted to pursue his career further in road racing. In 2009, Bradley earned 4th place in the iconic Tour de France. The Tour de France is an annual cycling event that takes 200 riders along a 2000-mile course around France, over 23 days – a taxing tournament!

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He won the 2012 Paris–Nice, the 2012 Tour de Romandie, and the 2012 Critérium du Dauphiné, before winning the Tour de France the same year. Wiggins became the first Britain ever to win the Tour de France, a race in which the winner of each stage of the race wears a yellow jersey.

At the age of 32, and in recognition for his success in cycling, Bradley was voted to be the BBC Sports Personality of the Year, which was awarded by the Duchess of Cambridge.

2016 saw more medals for Bradley. He won a gold and silver medal in the Track World Championships and had more success at the Olympic Games. Wiggins competed in Rio de Janeiro in 2016 and came away with another gold medal to add to his collection. So far he has won five gold Olympic medals, one silver medal and two bronze medals – and that's just for the Olympic Games!

2016 was rumoured to be the final year for Bradley's career in racing. After the Rio Olympic Games, Bradley announced that his final event would be the Six Days of Ghent in November 2016.

It has been logged that Bradley's top speed reached 68mph during a time trial - that's just as fast as a car would reach when travelling down a motorway!

Family

Bradley is married to Catherine whom he met during the 2002 Commonwealth Games. Catherine and Bradley have two children together, Isabella and Ben. They live in their family home in Eccleston, Lancashire. Bradley's home is close to the Manchester Velodrome, which is the home of Team Sky and British Cycling.

Interests

Bradley is a huge fan of classic scooters and guitars from the 1960s and 1970s and owns his own collection.

He is a keen supporter of other sports such as football and rugby and is an avid fan of Liverpool Football Club and Wigan Warriors rugby club in particular.

Bradley started his own foundation, named the Bradley Wiggins Foundation, in 2012 to encourage people to take up exercise and sport. Unfortunately, in 2016, the foundation ceased to continue.

Wiggins speaks fluent French as he spent a lot of time training in France alongside French cyclists.

Bradley also enjoys writing and has written four books in total that talk about his training and his achievements in cycling.

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2. What does the word 'decorated' mean in the sentence below?

'Bradley has become one of the most decorated British athletes.'

honoured

3. Read the 'Early Life' paragraph. Find and copy the word which means skilled and qualified?

professional

4. List three events where Bradley won gold medals.

Individual pursuit at the UCI Junior Track Cycling World Championships in 1998.
Annual Spanish road race, 'Cinturón a Mallorca'.
Flèche de Sud in Luxembourg.

5. Read the first paragraph of 'Early Life'. Find and copy a synonym for each of the words below.

reliable

dream

practise

consistent

ambition

train

6. Why did Bradley not compete in any major track races between 2005 and 2007?

He focused on his road racing.

7. Write three facts about the Tour de France that we learn from the text.

Approximately 200 riders compete.
It is a 2,000 mile course.
It is a cycling event.

8. List Bradley's 2016 achievements.

Gold and silver medals in the Track World Championships.
Gold Olympic Medal.

9. Why does the author compare Bradley's top speed to that of a car travelling on a motorway?

The reader will have experienced travelling on the motorway in a car so will be able to visualise the speed Bradley reached on his bike.

10. Number the events 1- 5 to show the order in which they occurred in Bradley's life.

Won a gold medal at the Rio Olympics.	4
First British athlete for 40 years to win 3 medals in one Olympic Games.	2
Competed in the 'Six Days of Ghent' competition.	5
Won the Individual Pursuit at the Junior World Championships.	1
Awarded Sports Personality of the Year.	3