

Pele Edson Arantes do Nascimento

Pele (born 1940, Brazil) is often called the greatest soccer player in the world. He started playing soccer when he was a teenager. His family was very poor. He cleaned shoes for money. In 1956, he played his first professional game, for Santos Soccer club. The Club won many national and international competitions. Pele also led the Brazilian team to three World Cup wins in 1958, 1962, and 1970.

He played a total of 1.363 matches and scored 1.282 goals. He left soccer in 1974 but the next year he decided to play for an American team called the New York Cosmos. His salary was seven million dollars. He was the highest paid sports star in the world. His last game was against the Santos Club in 1977.

After he became famous, Pele wrote several autobiographies. He also starred in many movies. He even wrote all the music for the movie **Pele** (1977). The next year, he received the International Peace Award.

Brazil's representative in the United Nations said he believed that Pele helped international goodwill and friendship more than any politician.

1. Answer the questions

- a. When was Pele born?
- b. What is his real name?
- c. What job did he do as a child?
- d. What Brazilian club did he play for?

2. How old was Pele when

- a. he started playing soccer?
- b. he received the International Peace Award?
- c. he stopped playing soccer in Brazil?
- d. he went to play soccer in the USA/

3. The text below has 5 mistakes. Circle them and correct them.

The Argentinean Soccer player Pele, came from a very rich family. He started playing professional soccer in 1958 at the age of eighteen. He won the World cup twice, and later went to England to play soccer there. He retired from soccer in 1977.

4. Put the events in the correct order.

- a. He stopped playing soccer for the last time
- b. He won his first World Cup.
- c. He stopped playing football in Brazil.



- d.He started playing for Santos Soccer Club.
- e.He started playing soccer in the USA
- f.He won the International Peace Award.