1. Garry Kasparov's chess career began with an early fascination for the game, sparked by a chess problem set up by his parents. Tragically, his father died when he was just seven, and at the age of twelve, he adopted his mother's surname to avoid the anti-Semitic tensions prevalent in the USSR. His chess prowess was evident from a young age, winning the Soviet Junior Championship twice by the age of fourteen. Kasparov's rise in the chess world was meteoric, and by fifteen, he qualified for the USSR Chess Championship, the youngest ever to do so. His victory at the Sokolsky Memorial tournament at the age of fifteen marked his transition to a chess master, setting him on a path to become one of the greatest chess players in history.  
  
2. Kasparov's ascent to the pinnacle of chess was marked by his historic victory over Anatoly Karpov in 1985, becoming the youngest-ever undisputed World Chess Champion at 22. This victory was the beginning of a fierce rivalry that would define both players' careers. Kasparov defended his title against Karpov in three intense matches over the next five years. Their matches were not just a battle of wits over the chessboard but also a symbolic representation of the political tensions of the Cold War era, with Kasparov often seen as the youthful challenger to the Soviet establishment that Karpov represented.  
  
3. In 1997, Kasparov faced a new kind of opponent: the IBM supercomputer Deep Blue. This match was a historic moment, not just for chess but for the field of artificial intelligence. Kasparov's loss to Deep Blue in a standard time control match was a watershed event, signaling the arrival of computers as formidable opponents in chess. This match was widely publicized and brought chess to the forefront of public consciousness, sparking debates about the future of human versus machine competition.  
  
4. Kasparov's contributions to chess extend beyond his competitive play. His series "My Great Predecessors" is a monumental work that explores the history and games of previous world champions, offering deep insights into their playing styles and contributions to the game. This series is not just a collection of annotated games but a historical narrative that connects the evolution of chess strategy to the personalities and cultural contexts of its greatest practitioners.  
  
5. Kasparov's political activism began in earnest after his retirement from competitive chess. He has been an outspoken critic of Vladimir Putin's administration, advocating for democratic reforms in Russia. His involvement in politics has come at a personal cost, including arrests and harassment. Despite these challenges, Kasparov has remained a prominent figure in Russian opposition politics, using his international stature to draw attention to issues of human rights and political freedom.  
  
6. Kasparov's political ambitions led him to run for the presidency of Russia in 2008. Although his campaign encountered significant obstacles, including being unable to secure a venue for gathering supporters due to government pressure, his bid for the presidency was a bold statement against the political status quo in Russia. Kasparov's political activities have continued to be a significant part of his life post-chess, including his work with the Human Rights Foundation and the Renew Democracy Initiative.  
  
7. Kasparov's legacy in chess is not limited to his world championship titles and tournament victories. He holds records for the most consecutive professional tournament victories and the most Chess Oscars, awards given to the best chess player of the year. His peak FIDE rating of 2851 was a record that stood for over a decade, a testament to his dominance in the chess world during his career.  
  
8. Kasparov's influence on chess theory and practice is profound. He has contributed significantly to opening theory, with his aggressive and dynamic style of play inspiring a generation of players. His deep opening preparation and willingness to explore new ideas have left a lasting impact on the game. Kasparov's approach to chess has been compared to that of his idol, Alexander Alekhine, and his style has been described as a blend of Alekhine's attacking flair and the strategic depth of Anatoly Karpov.  
  
9. Beyond chess and politics, Kasparov has also been involved in education and technology. He has promoted the use of chess as a tool for cognitive development and has been a security ambassador for the software company Avast. His interest in technology led him to coach the young Magnus Carlsen, who would go on to become world no. 1, and Kasparov's influence on Carlsen's development is a notable aspect of his post-competitive chess career.  
  
10. Kasparov's personal life has been as dynamic as his professional one. He has lived in multiple countries, including Russia, the United States, and Croatia, where he obtained citizenship in recognition of his support for the country during its bid for independence. Kasparov has been married three times and has four children. Despite the challenges he has faced, both in his chess career and political activism, Kasparov remains a figure of immense influence and is widely regarded as one of the greatest chess players of all time.