

Grade 5
Reading - Biography

"Serena Williams: A Champion on and off the Tennis Court"

Serena Williams, born on September 26, 1981, in Saginaw, Michigan, is considered one of the greatest tennis players of all time. Serena and her sister Venus were introduced to tennis at a very young age by their father, Richard Williams. Despite facing financial difficulties and lacking proper training facilities, the Williams sisters practiced relentlessly, driven by their passion for the game and their father's encouragement.

Serena turned professional in 1995, at the young age of 14. Her powerful serves and aggressive playing style quickly caught the attention of the tennis world. In 1999, she won her first major title at the US Open, becoming the first African American woman to win a Grand Slam in the Open Era. This victory was not just a personal achievement for Serena; it also broke racial barriers in tennis.

Over the years, Serena Williams has dominated the women's tennis circuit, winning 23 Grand Slam singles titles, the most by any player in the Open Era. She has also secured 14 Grand Slam doubles titles, primarily partnering with her sister Venus. Serena's incredible work ethic, determination, and mental toughness have set her apart from her contemporaries.

Off the court, Serena has used her platform to advocate for social justice and gender equality. She has been a vocal critic of the pay gap in tennis and has worked tirelessly to ensure that women athletes receive the recognition and compensation they deserve.

Serena Williams is not just an athlete; she is an inspiration, a role model, and a testament to the power of determination and hard work. Her journey from the public courts of Compton, California, to the prestigious grass courts of Wimbledon is a story of perseverance, resilience, and unparalleled success.

Multiple Choice Questions:

Where was Serena Williams born?

- a) Compton, California
- b) Saginaw, Michigan
- c) New York, New York
- d) Los Angeles, California

How old was Serena when she turned professional?

- a) 12
- b) 14
- c) 16
- d) 18

What is the name of Serena Williams' sister who is also a tennis player?

- a) Venus
- b) Maria
- c) Naomi
- d) Sofia

In which year did Serena win her first Grand Slam title?

- a) 1995
- b) 1997
- c) 1999
- d) 2001

What significant barrier did Serena break with her victory at the 1999 US Open?

- a) Youngest Grand Slam winner
- b) First left-handed winner
- c) First African American woman to win a Grand Slam in the Open Era
- d) First to win without losing a set

How many Grand Slam singles titles has Serena won?

- a) 14
- b) 18
- c) 23
- d) 25

With whom does Serena primarily partner for Grand Slam doubles titles?

- a) Her coach
- b) Venus Williams
- c) Another top singles player
- d) A dedicated doubles player

What sets Serena apart from her contemporaries in tennis?

- a) Her serve
- b) Her aggressive playing style
- c) Her work ethic and mental toughness
- d) Her choice of tennis racket

What social issues has Serena advocated for?

- a) Animal rights
- b) Environmental protection
- c) Social justice and gender equality
- d) Educational reform

What is Serena Williams' journey from Compton to Wimbledon a story of?

- a) Luck and chance
- b) Perseverance, resilience, and unparalleled success
- c) Easy success
- d) Financial investment

Answers:

1. b) Saginaw, Michigan. The passage mentions that Serena Williams was born in Saginaw, Michigan.
2. b) 14. The passage states that Serena turned professional at the age of 14.
3. a) Venus. The passage mentions that Serena's sister Venus also played tennis.
4. c) 1999. Serena won her first Grand Slam title at the US Open in 1999.
5. c) First African American woman to win a Grand Slam in the Open Era. Serena's victory at the 1999 US Open marked her as the first African American woman to win a Grand Slam in the Open Era.
6. c) 23. Serena has won 23 Grand Slam singles titles, the most by any player in the Open Era.
7. b) Venus Williams. Serena primarily partners with her sister Venus for Grand Slam doubles titles.
8. c) Her work ethic and mental toughness. The passage mentions that Serena's work ethic, determination, and mental toughness set her apart from her contemporaries.
9. c) Social justice and gender equality. Off the court, Serena has advocated for social justice and gender equality.
10. b) Perseverance, resilience, and unparalleled success. The passage concludes by describing Serena's journey as a story of perseverance, resilience, and unparalleled success.