

MICHAEL JORDAN

Greatest Athlete of the 20th Century



The NBA superstar took two steps and launched himself into the air. He seemed to defy gravity. He hurled the basketball toward the hoop. The people in the crowd held their breath. Whoosh! Michael Jordan scored a nothing-but-net shot from center court. The delighted fans jumped to their feet. The arena exploded in wild cheering.

In 1993, Michael retired the first time. He wanted to pursue a career in baseball. This was something he had wanted to do all his life. This dream didn't work out as he had

hoped. Michael quit baseball after one season. His fans were happy when he returned to the Chicago Bulls.

Michael led the Bulls to six national championships. He has won every major award in basketball. He played in the 1994 Olympic games. No one doubted the "Dream Team" would bring home the gold. They did. Michael has been called the greatest athlete of the 20th century.

In 1999, he retired for the final time. Since he retired, he can spend more time at home. Michael said he now has time to help his children with their homework.

In addition to his work on the court, he starred in the movie *Space Jam*. His cartoon co-stars were Bugs Bunny, Tweety, and Taz. Jordan also has made commercials in which he worked again with his Loony Tunes pals.

Jordan bought into the Washington Wizards. He manages all aspects of this NBA team.

Name _____

MICHAEL JORDAN

Circle the correct answer.

- Jordan hurled the basketball toward _____.
a. Pippen b. the hoop c. the crowd
- The delighted fans jump to their feet and the arena explodes in wild _____.
a. cheering b. screaming c. chanting
- Michael retired the first time in _____.
a. 1999 b. 1994 c. 1993
- Jordan wanted to pursue a career in _____.
a. golf b. baseball c. acting
- Michael led the Bulls to _____ national championships.
a. five b. three c. six
- Michael has been called the greatest athlete of the _____.
a. 20th century b. world c. United States
- He retired for the final time in _____.
a. 1993 b. 1999 c. 1997
- Since he retired, he can spend more time _____.
a. at home b. playing golf c. In Washington
- He starred in the movie _____.
a. *Loony Tunes* b. *Space Jam* c. *Tweety Turns Pro*
- Jordan bought into the Washington _____.
a. Wizards b. Wands c. Magicians

~~Research: Use an almanac. Find Illinois. Write the answers to the questions. What is the capital city? What is the state slogan? What is the state's nickname?~~