

Herb Brooks | Worksheet



Use the Sports Legends Biography "Herb Brooks" to answer the following.

Part 1: Quick Facts

Date of Birth and Location: _____

Chosen Sport and Role: _____

Facts about Brooks: Write one fact for each of the following sections.

- Early Life and Background

- A Country in Need of a Miracle

- Do You Believe in Miracles? ... Yes!

- Life After Lake Placid

Part 2: Vocabulary Words: Choose three words from the Glossary on p. 22 to define.

1. _____: _____

2. _____: _____

3. _____: _____

Part 3: Reading Comprehension

1. What motivated Herb Brooks to pursue coaching after his playing career ended?

2. Describe the significance of the victory in the 1980 Winter Olympics.

Scan to watch episode:



3. How did Herb Brooks' coaching style help unify his team, and what specific strategies did he use?

Part 4: Discussion & Critical Thinking

1. Brooks described his college hockey coach, John Mariucci, as being “like a father” to him, but also said he started “scared to death” of Mariucci. How do you think his relationship with Mariucci shaped Brooks’ coaching style?

2. What, in your opinion, enabled Brooks’ team of amateurs to defeat the Soviet team?

Part 5: Creative Corner

Imagine you get to sit in on a practice with Brooks and his Olympic team. What do you see, hear, and feel? What do you hear Brooks saying, and how do his players respond?

Your Story:

Comprehension and Multiple Choice

(This section's questions correspond to the Guess or Mess episode. Play along!)

Circle the best answer or write the response on the line for each of the following questions.

1. Where was Herb Brooks born?
 - a. St. Paul, Minnesota
 - b. Los Angeles, California
 - c. Dallas, Texas

2. While training with the U.S. Olympic team in 1960, what happened to Brooks right before the _____ Games?
 - a. He broke his leg during practice.
 - b. His coach cut him from the team.
 - c. He got a job and didn't compete.

3. In 1961, Herb Brooks graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in which field?
 - a. Hockey
 - b. Physical education
 - c. Psychology

4. When Brooks selected his Olympic team, what strategy did he use to squash the rivalries between his players?
 - a. He made himself their common enemy.
 - b. He took them to lunch to talk.
 - c. He cut teammates who couldn't get along.

5. Which top team was the "team to beat" in the 1980 Games?

6. What was the name of the intense skating drill Brooks made his team do after tying Norway in the pre-Olympic exhibition game?

7. Why was the United States' 1980 Olympic victory over the Soviets so significant?
 - a. They won a gold medal.
 - b. The game was shown on TV.
 - c. It reignited a sense of national pride.

8. When his team defeated the Soviets, why did Brooks leave the arena?
 - a. He needed to use the restroom.
 - b. He let his players receive all the attention.
 - c. He had to speak at a press conference.

Patriot Pop Quiz | Bonus Points!

1. Name two presidents whose faces are carved into Mount Rushmore.

2. What is the state capital of California?
 - a. Los Angeles
 - b. Sacramento
 - c. San Francisco

Herb Brooks | Answer Key

Part 1: Quick Facts

Date of Birth and Location: August 5, 1937, in St. Paul, Minnesota

Chosen Sport and Role: Hockey, Coach

Facts about Brooks: Write one fact for each of the following sections.

Accept reasonable answers. The following are examples.

Early Life and Background

- Herb Brooks was born into a hockey-loving family, with his father and younger brother also playing the sport.
- A Country in Need of a Miracle The United States was facing economic and political challenges, including gasoline shortages, the Iran hostage crisis, and a low point in national morale.
- Do You Believe in Miracles? ... Yes! The U.S. hockey team, coached by Herb Brooks, defeated the heavily favored Soviet team in the 1980 Winter Olympics, a victory known as the "Miracle on Ice."
- Life After Lake Placid Herb Brooks continued to coach in the NHL and for other Olympic teams, and he became the director of player development for the Pittsburgh Penguins before his death in 2003.

Part 2: Vocabulary Words: Choose three words from the Glossary on p. 22 to define.

Accept words taken from page 22. The following are examples.

1. Rivalry: An antagonistic, competitive relationship between two teams who have played each other several times in the past.
2. Exhibition: An unofficial game played between two teams, usually as a part of preseason training, that doesn't count towards their record.
3. Qualifications: In sports, matches that teams must win to advance to championship rounds

Part 3: Reading Comprehension

1. What motivated Herb Brooks to pursue coaching after his playing career ended?

(Example Answer): Herb Brooks was motivated to pursue coaching after his playing career ended because he wanted to continue being involved in hockey and had a strong

desire to lead and develop players, drawing from his own experiences and challenges as a player.

2. Describe the significance of the victory in the 1980 Winter Olympics.

(Example Answer): The victory in the 1980 Winter Olympics, known as the "Miracle on Ice," was significant because it was an unexpected triumph over the dominant Soviet team, lifting the spirits of the American people during a time of national difficulty and symbolizing a major Cold War victory

3. How did Herb Brooks' coaching style help unify his team, and what specific strategies did he use?

(Example Answer): Herb Brooks' coaching style helped unify his team by creating a common enemy in himself, fostering a strong team bond. He used strategies like tough practices, psychological tactics to boost confidence, and emphasizing team unity over individual rivalries

Part 4: Discussion & Critical Thinking

3. Brooks described his college hockey coach, John Mariucci, as being "like a father" to him, but also said he started "scared to death" of Mariucci. How do you think his relationship with Mariucci shaped Brooks' coaching style?

(Example Answer): Brooks' relationship with Mariucci likely shaped his coaching style by combining respect and discipline with a deep understanding of his players. He adopted Mariucci's tough approach to push players to their limits while also building a strong, supportive team environment

4. What, in your opinion, enabled Brooks' team of amateurs to defeat the Soviet team?

(Example Answer): Brooks' team of amateurs was able to defeat the Soviet team due to their rigorous conditioning, strong team unity, innovative strategies like "the weave," and Brooks' ability to instill confidence and a relentless fighting spirit in his players

Part 5: Creative Corner

Imagine you get to sit in on a practice with Brooks and his Olympic team. What do you see, hear, and feel? What do you hear Brooks saying, and how do his players respond?

Your Story:

(Responses will vary.)

Guess or Mess Episode Play Along:

1. Where was Herb Brooks born?
 - a. **St. Paul, Minnesota**
 - b. Los Angeles, California
 - c. Dallas, Texas
2. While training with the U.S. Olympic team in 1960, what happened to Brooks right before the Games?
 - a. He broke his leg during practice.
 - b. **His coach cut him from the team.**
 - c. He got a job and didn't compete.
3. In 1961, Herb Brooks graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in which field?
 - a. Hockey
 - b. Physical education
 - c. **Psychology**
4. When Brooks selected his Olympic team, what strategy did he use to squash the rivalries between his players?
 - a. **He made himself their common enemy.**
 - b. He took them to lunch to talk.
 - c. He cut teammates who couldn't get along.
5. Which top team was the "team to beat" in the 1980 Games?

Answer: **Soviet Union**
6. What was the name of the intense skating drill Brooks made his team do after tying Norway in the pre-Olympic exhibition game?

Answer: **"Herbies"**
7. Why was the United States' 1980 Olympic victory over the Soviets so significant?
 - a. They won a gold medal.
 - b. The game was shown on TV.

- c. It reignited a sense of national pride.
8. When his team defeated the Soviets, why did Brooks leave the arena?
- a. He needed to use the restroom.
 - b. He let his players receive all the attention.
 - c. He had to speak at a press conference.

Patriot Pop Quiz:

1. Name two presidents whose faces are carved into Mount Rushmore.
Answers: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, or Abraham Lincoln
2. What is the state capital of California?
- a. Los Angeles
 - b. Sacramento
 - c. San Francisco