

Perfect Ten

Do you know which gymnast was the first to get a perfect score at the Olympics? It was Nadia Comaneci. And she was only 14 years old.

Nadia received a perfect ten in the 1976 Olympic games in Canada. In fact, she received seven perfect tens and three gold medals. She also won a silver medal and a bronze medal in the games.

Nadia shone a spotlight on international women's gymnastics. Even the music she used for her floor routine became an international hit. She inspired future gymnasts, like Mary Lou Retton and Simone Biles.

Nadia was born in Romania in 1961. She liked to play soccer and spend time outside. She started doing gymnastics in kindergarten. She quickly began winning junior championships. Eventually she won international competitions as well.

After her amazing performance at the 1976 Olympics, Nadia came back and won more medals at the 1980 Olympics in Russia. She stopped competing in 1984.

Nadia moved to the United States in 1989. She married an American gymnast and became a gymnastics coach. In 1993 she was inducted into the International Gymnastics Hall of Fame.



Nadia believes in hard work and surrounding yourself with positive people. She said, “Hard work has made it easy. That is my secret. That is why I win.”



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NAME: _____ DATE: _____

1. Where was Nadia born?
 - a. Russia
 - b. Canada
 - c. Romania
 - d. United States

2. What was Nadia's most famous achievement?
 - a. Receiving a perfect score at the Olympics
 - b. Getting a gold medal
 - c. Becoming a gymnastics coach
 - d. Winning a junior championship

3. What is Nadia's secret?
 - a. Luck
 - b. Moving to the United States
 - c. Hard work
 - d. Starting in kindergarten

4. What does the author mean by the sentence, "Nadia shone a spotlight on international women's gymnastics"?
 - a. Nadia made gymnastics famous
 - b. Nadia made people jealous
 - c. Nadia exposed cheating in gymnastics
 - d. Nadia made music famous

Instructions for teachers:

These questions can be used to assess understanding of the reading passage.

The item in bold is the correct answer for each question.

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