

## Session 2 - "Arthur Ashe"

### Worksheet 1 – Arthur Ashe Information Sheet

#### Arthur Ashe – Biography

July 10, 1943 – Arthur Robert Ashe, Jr. is born in Richmond to Arthur Sr. and Mattie C. Ashe

1950 – Ashe's mother dies of complications from surgery.

1953 – After learning to play tennis in Richmond's Brookfield Park, Ashe attracts the attention of Ronald Charity, a part-time tennis coach. Charity arranges for Ashe to spend the summer at the Lynchburg home of Dr. Walter Johnson, who coached Althea Gibson. Johnson becomes Ashe's mentor.

1957 – Ashe becomes the first African-American to play in the Maryland boys' championships. It is his first integrated event.

1960 – Tired of traveling far from segregated Richmond to compete against whites, Ashe mulls a move. When a St. Louis tennis official offers room in his home, Ashe accepts. He enrolls at Sumner High School for his senior year.

April 8, 1963 – As a sophomore at UCLA, Ashe is featured for the second time in *Sports Illustrated's* Faces in the Crowd. He first appeared in the Dec. 12, 1960 issue.

August 1, 1963 – Ashe becomes the first African-American player named to the U.S. Davis Cup team. He plays on the team from 1963 to 1970 and again in 1975, 1976 and 1978.

June 21, 1965 – Ashe wins the NCAA men's singles championship, leading UCLA to the team title.

1966 – Ashe graduates from UCLA with a degree in business administration.

1968 – Ashe helps create the USTA National Junior Tennis League, a program designed to develop inner-city tennis players.

September 9, 1968 – Still an amateur, Ashe defeats Tom Okker of the Netherlands to win the U.S. Open. He is the only African-American man to win the title.

January 26, 1970 – Ashe wins the Australian Open, the second of his three Grand Slam singles titles.

1970 – To protest South Africa's apartheid system of government, Ashe calls for the nation to be expelled from the International Lawn Tennis Federation. Ashe requests a visa to travel to South Africa, but his application is denied.

1973 – South Africa grants Ashe a visa. He becomes the first black pro to play in South Africa's national championships.

July 5, 1975 – Ashe defeats Jimmy Connors 6-1, 6-1, 5-7, 6-4 to win the Wimbledon singles title. Ashe is the only black man to win the world's most prestigious grass-court tournament.

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February 20, 1977 – Ashe marries Jeanne Moutoussamy a photographer he met during a tennis tournament four months earlier. Andrew Young, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, performs the ceremony at the U. N. chapel in New York.

July 31, 1979 – Ashe suffers a heart attack while taking part in a tennis clinic in New York. He is hospitalized for 10 days.

December 13, 1979 – Ashe undergoes quadruple-bypass surgery.

April 16, 1980 – After suffering chest pains during training, Ashe retires from competitive tennis. His professional record: 818 wins, 260 losses. He won 51 titles.

September 7, 1980 – Ashe becomes captain of the U.S. Davis Cup team. The U.S. will win the Davis Cup in 1981 and '82.

1981 – Ashe serves as national chairman of the American Heart Association.

June 21, 1983 – Because of continuing heart trouble, Ashe undergoes double-bypass surgery. After the operation, Ashe feels sluggish and uncomfortable.

January 11, 1985 – Ashe is arrested outside the South African embassy in Washington during an anti-apartheid protest.

March 21, 1985 – Ashe is voted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, R.I.

December 21, 1986 – A daughter, Camera, is born to Jeanne and Arthur in New York.

1988 – After feeling numbness in his right hand. Ashe is hospitalized. Tests show that he has toxoplasmosis, a bacterial infection often present in people with HIV. Further tests show that Ashe has HIV, the virus that can cause AIDS. The source of his exposure is believed to be a blood transfusion he received during his 1983 bypass surgery.

1991 – As part of a 31-member delegation of prominent African-Americans, Ashe returns to South Africa to observe political changes in the country as it approaches integration.

April 8, 1992 – Believing USA Today is about to report that he has AIDS, Ashe calls a press conference and makes the announcement himself.

September 9, 1992 – While protesting the U.S. crackdown on Haitian refugees, Ashe is arrested outside the White House.

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December 1, 1992 – On World AIDS Day, Ashe addresses the United Nations General Assembly. He implores the delegates to boost funding for AIDS research and to increase knowledge of the disease.

December 1992 – Ashe is named *Sports Illustrated's* Sportsman of the Year.

February 6, 1993 – Ashe, 49, dies of AIDS-related pneumonia in New York. His body lies in state at the Governor's Mansion in Richmond. More than 5,000 mourners line up outside to file past the casket. Ashe is the first person to lie in state at the mansion since Confederate general Stonewall Jackson in 1863.

February 10, 1993 – Ashe is laid to rest in Richmond. Nearly 6,000 people attend the funeral, including New York City mayor David Dinkins, Virginia governor L. Douglas Wilder, Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown and Rainbow Coalition chairman Jesse Jackson. Andrew Young, former U.N. ambassador and Atlanta mayor, delivers the eulogy.

July 10, 1996 – On what would have been his 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday, a statue of Ashe is dedicated on Richmond's Monument Avenue. The statue is a striking contrast to the Confederate war heroes whose monuments line the avenue. Ashe is depicted carrying books in one hand and a tennis racket in the other.