

Session 2 – Arthur Ashe

Activity 1 – Celebrities and Charities

Arthur Ashe believed in giving back to the community. He felt a sense of responsibility to those who were less fortunate than him. He traveled the world dedicated to making life a little better for someone who didn't have the opportunities that he had. Arthur Ashe was proud to be a voice for several charities. Listed below are famous people who have charities that are near and dear to their heart. Many of these celebrities have started their own charitable foundation. Can you match the famous person with one of their favorite charities?

Celebrity

1. Arthur Ashe _____
2. Al Gore _____
3. Oprah Winfrey _____
4. Bill Clinton _____
5. Shaquille O'Neal _____
6. Michael J. Fox _____
7. Denzel Washington _____
8. Bill Gates _____
9. Michael Jordan _____
10. Timbaland _____
11. Brad Pitt & Angelina Jolie _____

Charity

- a. McDonalds
- b. Tsunami Aid Drive
- c. Challenge: Fighting Childhood Obesity
- d. Boys and Girls club of America
- e. The Ronald McDonald House Charity
- f. Angel Network
- g. An Inconvenient Truth
- h. Live Earth
- i. Foundation for Parkinson's Research
- j. Global Action for Children
- k. Global Health Issues
- l. The Safe Passage Foundation
- m. UNCF/ College Fund
- n. Doctors Without Borders
- o. Real Model Foundation
- p. World AIDs Charity
- q. Leadership Academy for Girls
- r. American Heart Association

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Worksheet 1 – Arthur Ashe’s Mentors

Arthur Ashe’s Mentors

- **Ronald Charity** met Arthur Ashe when he was 6 years old. Ronald was a student attending Virginia Union University and a part-time playground instructor at Brook Field Courts who observed Arthur’s potential and he began to work with him. Arthur Ashe’s father worked at the playground. After Ashe displayed such great potential he was introduced to his second mentor.
- **Dr. Ronald Walter Johnson** was a friend of Ronald Charity’s. Dr. Johnson was a physician who practiced in Lynchburg, Virginia. He taught Arthur Ashe the skills of playing by utilizing discipline through military style. Arthur Ashe lived with Dr. Johnson throughout his early years during the summer. The tennis courts were arranged in Dr. Johnson’s backyard. He had several students and Arthur was the youngest and the skinniest. Dr. Johnson also trained Althea Gibson. When Dr. Johnson realized that Arthur could not attain his capabilities during the all Black competitions, he then called a friend who became Arthur Ashe’s third mentor. Johnson taught his players to accept defeat graciously and to celebrate victories with humility.
- **Richard Hudlin** a tennis coach in St. Louis Missouri, who invited Ashe there to continue his training. While in his senior year of high school Ashe graduated in the summer. Coach Hudlin was instrumental in assisting Arthur to pursue a college career, to enhance his skills and style as well as to augment his competitive edge and to maximize his talents. Ashe received a scholarship to UCLA in 1961.
- **J. D. Morgan** was Arthur’s fourth mentor. A tennis coach at the University of California, Los Angeles. Coach Morgan urged Arthur to major in business administration. However, Arthur wanted to major in engineering. His coach explained to Ashe that it was paramount that he was able to balance his studies, practice tennis and travel, ROTC and to complete 250 hours of work his scholarship required he give to college. Arthur agreed and he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration in 1966. After receiving the degree. Arthur was inducted into the army. Under the tutelage of coach J. D. Morgan, Ashe honed his aggressive court style, with a powerful backhand of speed-of-light serve. This was the ammunition that made him such a success on the faster grass and hard court surface.

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Activity 4 – Service Off and On the Court

Arthur Ashe developed the mentor program called Virginia Heroes, Incorporated. Perhaps he believed in mentoring because there were several people who helped to shape his life. Read Worksheet #1. There are four people listed that were considered a mentor to Arthur Ashe. Answer the question below and make your own list of influential mentors.

Define mentor.

Family member(s) considered a mentor: _____

An Elementary School mentor: _____

A Middle school mentor: _____

A Mentor from the Community: _____

Why do you consider them mentors?

List some positive attributes of a mentor.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

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Activity 2 – Charity Begins At Home

Do you have a favorite charity or cause? Have you always wanted to help a certain cause or people who are less fortunate than you? Do you think it is important to give to charities? If you don't have a favorite charity, considering choosing a Literacy program, Earth Day program, World AIDs Relief program, the Feed the Children campaign or a Breast Cancer Research fund. You could always create your own charity. Write a paragraph describing why that charity is important to you.

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Activity 3 – Quote for Discussion

"True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever the cost."

Arthur Ashe

Read the quote. Ask the students what they think the author was trying to say. Do you agree with Mr. Ashe? Why do you agree or disagree?