

Clues for Serena Williams

1. Born in 1981 in Saginaw, Michigan, she moved to Compton, California, a tough part of Los Angeles, at age three, where she learned to play on public courts, which had many potholes.
2. Later at age ten, her family moved to Florida so she could attend Rick Macci's academy.
3. Coached by her father, who knew little about the sport, so he mastered it by watching videos and reading and by a man who shared her father's name.
4. Sweat! Sweat! Her father painted a sign that read, "If you fail to prepare properly, you prepare to fail."
5. Her parents always told everyone who would listen that family is most important. Their children would be champions overcoming racial prejudice, having little money, and coming from a disadvantaged neighborhood.
6. She and her sister were best friends who practiced two hours each day, hitting up to 1000 balls.
7. Her mother and father could barely watch when she played with her sister because one had to lose.
8. At 14, she turned professional but did not defeat her sister until four years later. Together, they won all the major doubles championships twice and won three gold medals in the United States Olympics.

9. Winning the Australian Open, the French Open, the Wimbledon, and the US Open is called a Grand Slam.
10. She has won 23 Grand Slam Single titles, the most by any player since 1968.
11. She and her sister Venus created a foundation that helps disadvantaged youth worldwide by contributing money to help build schools and provide scholarships.