

Thousands of Argentinians say goodbye to Maradona

29th November, 2020



Thousands of football fans paid their final respects to football legend Diego Maradona on Thursday. Huge crowds lined the streets of the capital Buenos Aires to catch a glimpse of the car carrying his body. The car was draped in the Argentina flag and a football shirt bearing his trademark number 10. Thousands more silently walked past his coffin as it was put on public display at the Presidential Palace. They were weeping, blowing kisses to their hero and praying. Maradona passed away on Wednesday, aged 60. He died of a heart attack. Argentina's government declared three days of national mourning for him. One fan said: "Maradona represents Argentinianess. He transcended football. He has my respect. I had to be here."

Diego Armando Maradona is widely regarded as one of the greatest players ever to step onto a football pitch. Many consider him to be the best. He captained his national team when Argentina won the 1986 World Cup. He scored the famous "Hand of God" goal against England in the quarter-finals. In that same game, he scored another goal that was voted as the greatest goal of the twentieth century. Maradona played for Barcelona in Spain and Napoli in Italy. Current Barcelona captain Lionel Messi said: "Maradona will never leave us because Diego is eternal." Brazilian legend Pele, a constant rival to Maradona for the world's greatest ever player accolade, said he hoped to one day, "play together in the sky" with Maradona.

Sources: bbc.com / aljazeera.com / batimes.com

Writing

Maradona is the greatest player ever to play football. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

football fans / respects / legend / Argentina / football shirt / number 10 / hero / pray / football pitch / captain / national team / World Cup / eternal / rival / accolade / sky

True / False

- a) The article says hundreds of thousands of fans line the streets. T / F
- b) The car carrying Maradona's body was draped in his number 10 shirt. T / F
- c) Maradona's body was put on display at the national stadium. T / F
- d) The government declared three days of national mourning for Maradona. T / F
- e) The article says Maradona was the best football player ever. T / F
- f) Maradona scored a goal called the "Arm of God" goal. T / F
- g) Maradona played football in Italy and Spain. T / F
- h) The football legend Pele wants to play with Maradona in the sky. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. fans | a. best |
| 2. glimpse | b. crying |
| 3. trademark | c. thought of |
| 4. weeping | d. challenger |
| 5. passed away | e. brief look |
| 6. regarded | f. everlasting |
| 7. greatest | g. characteristic |
| 8. eternal | h. died |
| 9. rival | i. honour |
| 10. accolade | j. supporters |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think of football?
- c) Who is the greatest sportswoman ever?
- d) What do you know about Maradona's goals?
- e) What three adjectives best describe this story?
- f) What advice do you have for children who want to play like Maradona?
- g) Should Argentina rename its national stadium to Maradona Stadium?
- h) What questions would you like to ask an expert on Maradona?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Thousands of football fans paid | a. of national mourning |
| 2. catch a | b. in the Argentina flag |
| 3. The car was draped | c. century |
| 4. Argentina's government declared three days | d. pitch |
| 5. He transcended | e. glimpse of the car |
| 6. widely regarded as one of the | f. national team |
| 7. football | g. greatest players ever |
| 8. He captained his | h. football |
| 9. the twentieth | i. the sky |
| 10. play together in | j. their final respects |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about Maradona?
- Who are your country's greatest sporting heroes?
- Who is the greatest sportsman ever?
- Would you line the streets to pay your last respects to someone?
- Why is Maradona such a hero?
- What do you think of Argentina having three days of mourning?
- Why is football so popular around the world?
- Why do you think Maradona represents 'Argentinaness'?

Spelling

- paid their final rpetssec
- football legdne Diego Maradona
- catch a giempls of the car carrying his body
- his rredkaatm number 10
- put on public ayildsp
- three days of national imngonur
- widely drgrdeae as one of the greatest
- Many idecnosr him to be the best
- against England in the auertqr-finals
- the greatest goal of the twentieth cyeunrt
- Diego is telenra
- a constant lirav to Maradona

Answers – Synonym Match

1. j	2. e	3. g	4. b	5. h
6. c	7. a	8. f	9. d	10. i

Role Play

Role A – Football

You think football is the greatest sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sport. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): tennis, basketball or skiing.

Role B – Tennis

You think tennis is the greatest sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sport. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): football, basketball or skiing.

Role C – Basketball

You think basketball is the greatest sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sport. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): tennis, football or skiing.

Role D – Skiing

You think skiing is the greatest sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sport. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): tennis, basketball or football.

Speaking – Sports

Rank these with your partner. Put the best sports at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| • Golf | • Football |
| • Basketball | • Tennis |
| • Hockey | • Skiing |
| • Cricket | • Formula 1 |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.