

SELF-GUIDED LESSON: THE ALI SHUFFLE

Recommended: Grades 4-12

Core Content Areas : Reading, Writing and Spelling

Ali is known for his graceful movements in the ring. Students will shuffle through the Center looking for the answers to clues to a word puzzle where they will learn about Muhammad's life and legacy.

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Helpful Pre-Arrival Hints:

In order to ensure that everyone has an enjoyable experience, we suggest:

1. Students should bring a pencil (please, no pens) and a copy of the Ali Shuffle Puzzle with them.
2. Students may be grouped in pairs or small groups. Because of the large group size, we recommend that elementary and middle school students be assigned to small groups with an adult chaperone.

Suggestions for Pre-Visit Activities:

Review Biography of Muhammad Ali (can be downloaded as a part of this program):

1. Discuss important events in Ali's life, including the context of the era in which he grew up (Louisville was segregated – this had a great effect on the way he viewed and experienced the world around him).
2. Younger students can discuss any vocabulary words that the teacher feels necessary to enhance the understanding of Muhammad's life story.

Suggestions for Post-Visit Activities:

Review the completed Ali Shuffle crossword puzzle.

1. Students can select one of Muhammad's quotes used in the crossword clues. Ask them to write what that quote means to them and why it caught their attention.
2. Write a paragraph or two on one of the following topics inspired by the students' visit to the Muhammad Ali Center (these questions may also be done as an art or creative writing project):
 - Muhammad Ali's life story
 - One of the six themes of the Muhammad Ali Center: Respect, Confidence, Conviction, Dedication, Giving, and Spirituality.
 - Explain what you can do to make a difference in your community.
 - What is one of your "hopes and dreams" for the future? How do you plan on accomplishing this goal?

Suggested Reading Materials:

I Shook Up The World , Maryum Ali

The Greatest Muhammad Ali , Walter Dean Myers

Float Like a Butterfly , Ntozake Shange

Muhammad Ali: The Worlds Champion , John Tessitore

MUHAMMAD ALI BIOGRAPHY

Born in Louisville, Kentucky, on January 17, 1942, Cassius Marcellus Clay, Jr. was named after his father (who was himself named for the Kentucky abolitionist, Cassius M. Clay). At age 12, he had his bicycle stolen and he reported the fact to a local policeman (and boxing trainer), Sergeant Joe Martin. Cassius wanted to “whup” the thief, but Martin suggested that Clay learn to fight first. Under his guidance, Clay rapidly advanced through the youth ranks. Clay won six Kentucky Golden Gloves while in high school and was allowed to graduate, despite his poor grades (later it would be determined that Clay was dyslexic, though at the time, he was simply thought to be a low achiever). Clay later joked about his lackluster academic record saying, “I said I was the Greatest, not the smartest.”

At the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome, Clay won a gold medal as a light heavyweight boxer. He then turned professional and, under the guidance of trainer Angelo Dundee, quickly became famous for his unusual style, his spectacular results, and his tireless self-promotion. He made a name for himself as the “Louisville Lip” by composing poems and predicting in which round he would knock out his opponent. He proudly sang his own praises, with sayings like “I am the greatest” and “I’m young, I’m pretty, I’m fast, and can’t possibly be beat.”

Clay’s first professional fight was in his hometown of Louisville. He won and went on to win 18 more before taking on the much feared and favored contender and titleholder, Sonny Liston. The fight took place on February 25, 1964. Clay won the fight and became the heavyweight champion of the world.

A few days later, Clay announced his affiliation with the Nation of Islam and that his name was changed to Muhammad Ali. In 1967, he refused to serve in the American army during the Vietnam War declaring himself a conscientious objector and famously saying that he “got no quarrel with them Viet Cong.” Ali was stripped of his championship belt, his license to box and was sentenced to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. The sentence was overturned on appeal three-and-a-half years later by a unanimous decision of the Supreme Court. Ali’s actions of refusing military service and joining the Nation of Islam made him a lightning rod of controversy. These events and Muhammad’s unprecedented boxing career made Ali one of that era’s most recognizable and controversial figures.

After being denied boxing licenses by more than twenty state boxing commissions, Ali took on Jerry Quarry in Atlanta – and won. However, in 1971, he suffered a setback when he lost his title fight, a bruising 15-round encounter with Joe Frazier at Madison Square Garden. This fight, known as “The Fight of the Century,” was perhaps one of the most famous and eagerly anticipated bouts of all time since it featured two skilled, undefeated fighters, both of whom had reasonable claims to the heavyweight crown. The fight lived up to the hype, and Frazier punctuated his victory by flooring Ali with a hard left hook in the final round. Ali’s religious views also evolved over time. He began to study the Qur’an, and converted to Sunni Islam.

Ali regained his title in 1974, beating George Foreman in the famous "Rumble in the Jungle" in Zaire. He would retain his title until a 1978 loss to Olympic champion Leon Spinks. He defeated Spinks in a rematch, becoming the heavyweight champion for a record third time. Ali retired from boxing permanently in 1981, with a career record of 56 wins, 5 losses and 37 knockouts.

Ali was diagnosed with Parkinson's syndrome in 1982, a disorder of the nervous system that causes tremors or "shakiness" to different parts of the body. Even though Ali has slowed down over time, he remains a hero to millions around the world. In 1985, he was called upon to negotiate for the release of Americans held hostage in Lebanon. In 1996, he had the honor of lighting the Olympic Cauldron at the 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta, Georgia. Traveling across continents, he has hand delivered food and medical supplies to such needy sites as the Harapan Kita Hospital for children in Jakarta, Indonesia and Sister Beltran's orphanage for Liberian refugees on the Ivory Coast. In the U.S., he has helped such organizations as the Make-a-Wish-Foundation and the Special Olympics. In addition, Muhammad has been the recipient of countless awards, including Amnesty International's "Lifetime Achievement Award," the United Nations "Messenger of Peace" and GQ's "Athlete of the Century." In 2005, President Bush awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

That same year, he and his wife, Lonnie, opened the Muhammad Ali Center in their hometown of Louisville, Kentucky. The Center's mission promotes the beliefs and convictions that drove Muhammad to become the person he is today, appealing to the heart, spirit, and imagination of people worldwide. The Center inspires both children and adults to form new commitments in their lives in areas of personal growth, integrity and respect for others, and it offers the tools to make these commitments happen. On site, the Muhammad Ali Center boasts 2 ½ levels of compelling and interactive exhibits that both communicate the six values of Ali's life – respect, confidence, conviction, dedication, spirituality, and giving – and encourage visitors to find greatness within themselves.

Muhammad Ali has been married four times. He and his wife, Lonnie, have been married since 1986 and have an adopted son. Muhammad has a total of nine children.

THE ALI SHUFFLE

INSTRUCTIONS:

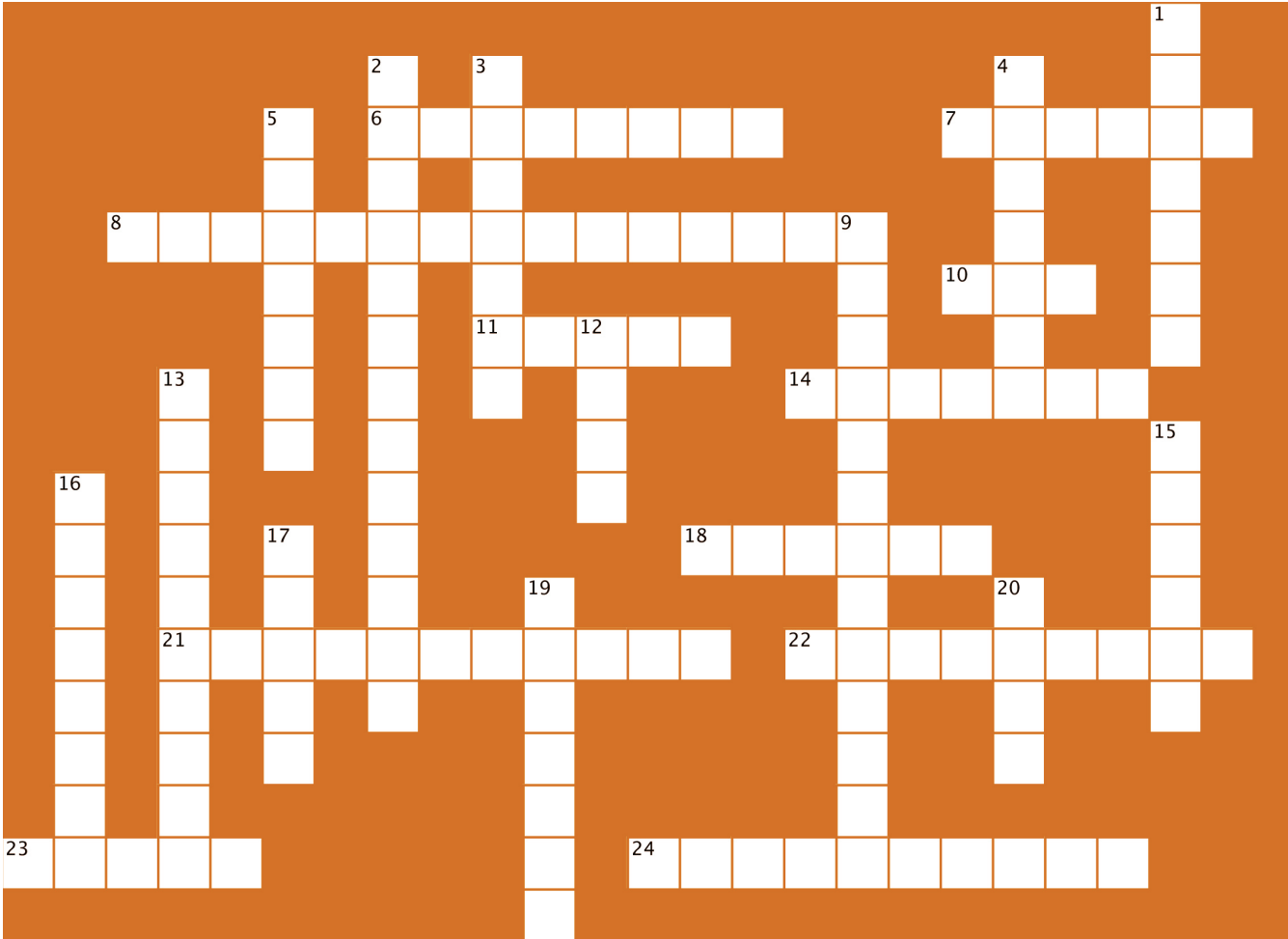
Fill in the blanks to the questions on the next page, as you visit the Orientation Theater, 5th Floor and 4th Floor exhibits. The word in parentheses after each clue provides a hint to where you can find the answers. The answers can then be used to fill in the crossword puzzle.

Across

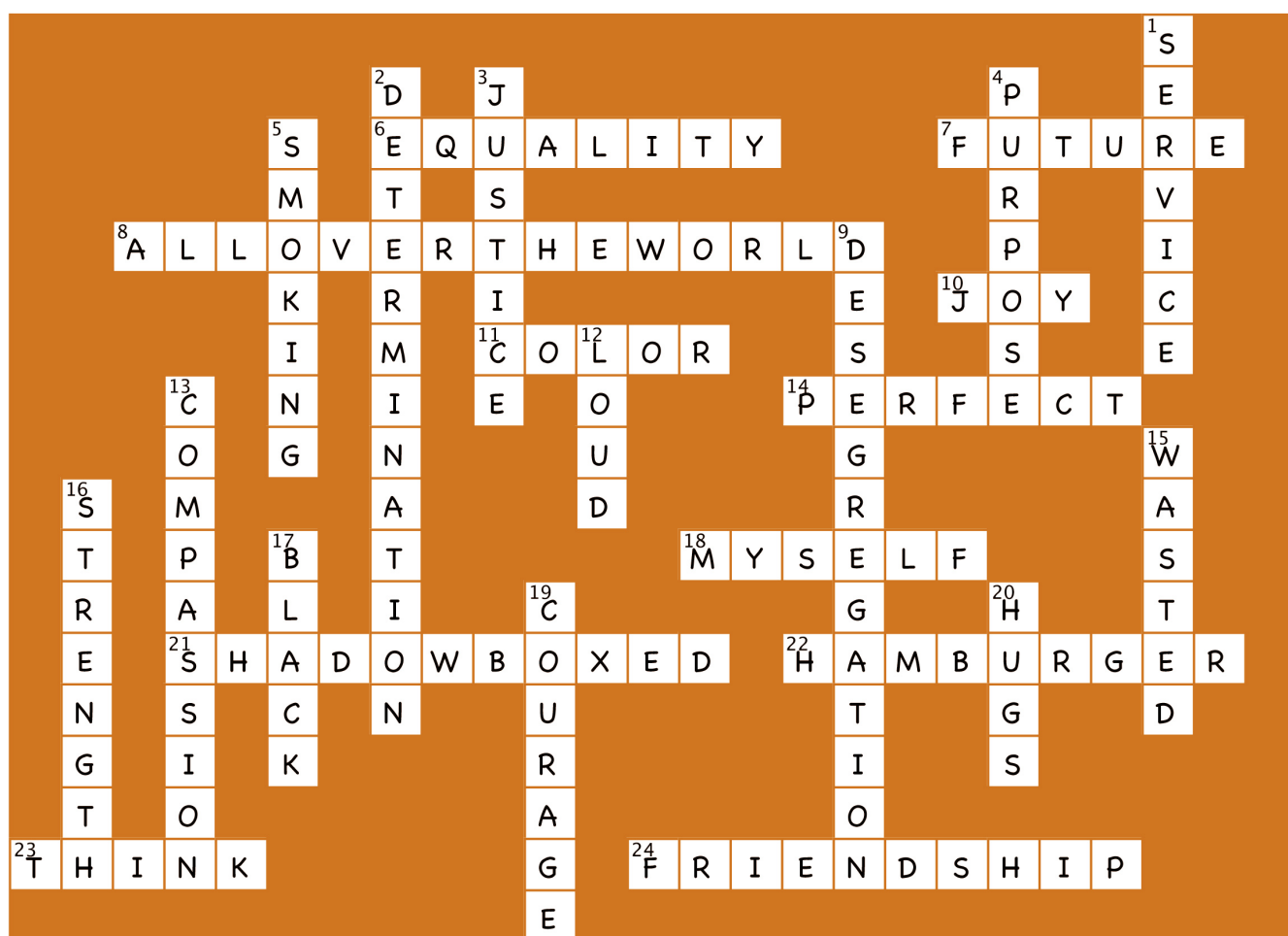
6. Respect is born in ____; not out of fear. (Respect)
7. When Ali refused to be drafted for the Vietnam war, he said, "I'm giving up my title, my wealth, maybe my _____. Many great men have been tested for their religious beliefs. If I pass this test, I'll come out stronger than ever." (Conviction)
8. When Cassius Clay became Muhammad Ali, he believed that the new Muslim name would help him go "___4 words___." (Conviction)
10. As a professional athlete, Muhammad Ali earned money for his fights. From the start, Cassius Clay delighted in his winnings and found ____ in sharing his good fortune with others. (Giving)
11. There is no color distinction in Islam: "brains, hearts and minds have no ____." (Respect)
14. Ali would be the first to admit that he is not a _____human being and never has been. (Respect)
18. In "Success," Muhammad Ali said "I'll never let anyone talk me into not believing in ____." (Walk with Ali)
21. Cassius Clay ____ through the halls of Central High School. (Dedication)
22. Muhammad's best friend, Howard Bingham, explained Muhammad's disappointment when he came home to Louisville after winning a gold medal at the Olympics: "How could he have pride in representing a country in which he couldn't even order a ____ where he wanted?" (Conviction)
23. Muhammad Ali was confident. He said, "I am free to be what I want to be and think what I want to ____." (Confidence)
24. According to a Yoruba proverb, "Peace is the father of ____." (Spirituality)

Down

1. Ali says "_____ to others is the rent we pay for our room here on Earth." (Giving)
2. Joe Martin, Cassius Clay's first trainer, said "He stood out because...I guess he had more _____than most boys." (Dedication)
3. Many world religions share the basic principles of love, hope, the golden rule, spiritual practice, peace and _____. (Spirituality)
4. To become the greatest you can be, look inside yourself and discover your sense of self, sense of others and sense of _____. (Walk with Ali)
5. Hunt Helm wrote that young Cassius Clay was careful about his diet. What habit did he refrain from? (Dedication)
9. Read the Timeline on page 9 of the booklet on the Lunch Counter. According to one of the articles, what step did Louisville take towards equality in 1956? (Conviction)
12. When Cassius Clay was a boy, he was taught --like many other African American kids -- not to talk too _____ and not to be too visible. (Confidence)
13. Spirituality is the yearning for goodness and truth, justice and _____. (Spirituality)
15. "A man who sees the world at 60 the same way he did at 30 has_____30 years of his life." (Respect)
16. Computer stations help you to identify your signature _____--one of your outstanding personal qualities. (Walk with Ali)
17. Muhammad Ali said, "_____ is beautiful, look at me." (Confidence)
19. Dr. Martin Luther King said, "No matter what you think of Mr. Muhammad Ali's religion, you certainly have to admire his _____. ("If You Can Dream" film)
20. Muhammad gives to others in many ways, especially in many "small, kind" ways, such as giving autographs and _____. (Giving)



THE ALI SHUFFLE (ANSWER KEY)



SCHOOL VISIT SURVEY

School _____ Date _____ Number of students _____

School Contact Person _____

Grade (circle one): Elementary Middle High Other _____

Name of Program: _____

Thank you for participating in one of our Educational Programs. Your honest feedback will help us to serve students and teachers better.

Please rate each of the following aspects of your experience at the Muhammad Ali Center:

1. I feel that the quality of the program was

Excellent Very Good Good Fair Poor

Comments/Suggestions _____

2. I feel that the length of the program was

Excellent Very Good Good Fair Poor

Comments/Suggestions _____

3. I feel that the program's alignment with our school curriculum is

Excellent Very Good Good Fair Poor

4. What aspect(s) of the mandated curriculum do you feel that the program serves best?

Comments/Suggestions _____

5. I feel that communication between Muhammad Ali Center staff and our school staff was

Excellent Very Good Good Fair Poor

Comments/Suggestions _____

6a) Did you use the educational materials provided by the Muhammad Ali Center

To prepare your students for their visit _____ Yes _____ No

As a follow up or culminating activity upon your return to class _____ Yes _____ No

6b) I feel that the educational materials that I received from the Muhammad Ali Center are

Excellent Very Good Good Fair Poor

Comments/Suggestions _____

7. I feel that our class visit to the Muhammad Ali Center was

Excellent Very Good Good Fair Poor

7b. My students felt that our class visit to the Muhammad Ali Center was

Excellent Very Good Good Fair Poor

Comments/Suggestions _____

8. Do you feel that your students were inspired by their visit to Muhammad Ali Center? _____ Yes _____ No

If so, in what way(s)?

Additional Comments or Suggestions (please use back if needed):