

Who Is...?



Concept
**Self-Management
Skills**



Length
10-15 Minutes

Inquiry Prompts

- What do you think would happen if any of the people in the game had given up on their goal?
- What did you learn from these people's experiences?
- What is grit?
- Why is grit important?

Instructions

The purpose of this activity is to tap into what students already know about historical figures who have demonstrated perseverance and grit in achieving their goals. (You can create your own clues using figures from any field of study, like art, math, science, etc. That way, you can introduce this lesson in any subject.).

- 1 Tell students you're going to play a game called Who is...? Explain that the object of the game is to guess who the person is based on a series of clues you give them.
- 2 Sort students into groups and give each group a set of ["people" cards](#). Keep the clues for yourself.
- 3 Read [the clues](#) and have groups select the matching "people" answer card from their set. Award a point for every correct guess.
- 4 Explain to students that all of these people have showed grit in their lives and/or careers.

Message for students: Grit as the ability to overcome challenges and setbacks to reach a goal. It's equal parts perseverance, passion, and purpose. Can you think of anyone else—famous or not famous—who has shown grit in achieving their goals?

Materials Required

- [Who Is...? game cards](#)
- [Who Is...? clues and answers](#)

Artifacts

Nothing for this activity.

Who Is...? Game Cards



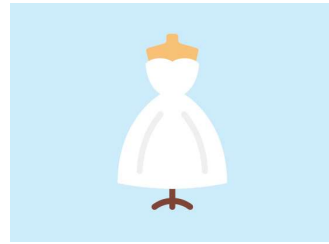
J.K. Rowling

A best-selling author.



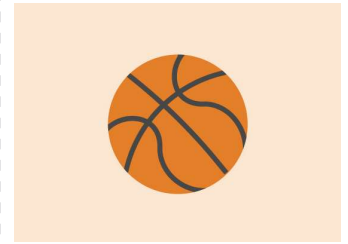
Willard Wigan

An award-winning artist.



Vera Wang

A top wedding dress designer.



Michael Jordan

A basketball star.



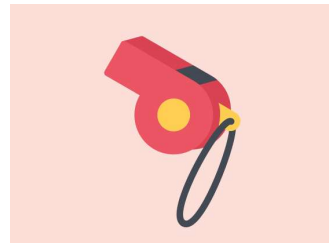
Maria Qamar

A writer and cartoonist.



Thomas Edison

An inventor.



Glen Mills

A running coach.



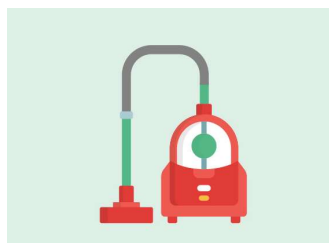
Winnie Harlow

A top model.



Bethany Hamilton

A celebrity surfer.



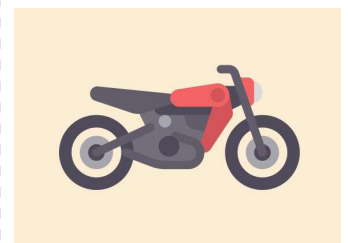
James Dyson

A product innovator.



**Bette Nesmith
Graham**

An inventor.



Soichiro Honda

A car company leader.

Who Is...? - Game Clues



Obstacle: It took more than 5 years for this person to finish their book, only to have it rejected by more than 10 publishers!

Goal Achieved: This person persevered until their 12th try when a small publisher finally decided to publish a young adult book about a boy wizard.

Answer: J.K Rowling

Obstacle: This person was shamed by a teacher for not being able to read and was made to believe they would amount to 'nothing'.

Goal Achieved: At 5 years old, this person started making miniature works of art. It took 30 years to get noticed, but they went on to make millions of dollars and win national awards for their unique artworks.

Answer: Willard Wigan

Obstacle: This competitive figure skater got to try out for the Olympic team but didn't make the cut.

Goal Achieved: This person took the discipline and creativity of figure skating and used it to inspire their designs in their new career in fashion.

Answer: Vera Wang

Obstacle: This person failed to make their high school basketball team.

Goal Achieved: Despite early struggles, this person went on to play in the NBA and is considered one of the best professional basketball players.

Answer: Michael Jordan

Obstacle: As a child, not only was this person bullied by other kids because of the color of their skin, they also had to deal with strict family expectations.

Goal Achieved: This person expressed their troubles by drawing comics. As an adult, they persisted through difficult times to create a graphic novel about the experiences of South Asian girls and young women.

Answer: Maria Qamar

Obstacle: This person was harshly criticized by their teachers in school and they were fired from their first 2 jobs.

Goal Achieved: It took over 1,000 tries, but they invented the first lightbulb. And they went on to make many more important inventions, too.

Answer: Thomas Edison

Who Is...? - Game Clues



Obstacle: This person loved to run but didn't have the speed to compete.

Goal Achieved: They took their passion for the sport and began to help other runners go for the gold. This person has coached runners who have won over 70 world championship medals, and counting!

Answer: Glen Mills

Obstacle: Born with a skin disease that causes white patches on their skin, this person was bullied as a child.

Goal Achieved: This person was chosen to appear on America's Next Top Model and proved that differences are beautiful.

Answer: Winnie Harlow

Obstacle: A terrifying encounter with a shark caused this young surfer to lose their left arm.

Goal Achieved: A month after their injury, this person was back up on a surfboard and was surfing professionally by the age of 17!

Answer: Bethany Hamilton

Obstacle: It took this person over 5,000 tries to create a bagless vacuum only to not be able to find anyone to produce it.

Goal Achieved: This person decided to start their own vacuum company which has become one of the top vacuum brands.

Answer: James Dyson

Obstacle: This administrative assistant was a bad typist and made so many mistakes they were in danger of losing their job.

Goal Achieved: To cover their mistakes, they invented a special white paint that made the typos seem to disappear. It worked so well they started a successful company selling their invention: Liquid Paper.

Answer: Bette Nesmith Graham

Obstacle: This person overcame early rejections to start their own car company only to lose it during World War II.

Goal Achieved: Starting over, this person saw the need to add motors to bicycles. Their low-cost motorcycles led them to build one of the top automobile companies in the world.

Answer: Soichiro Honda