

# Lewis Hamilton

## Interesting Facts

**Date of Birth:** 7<sup>th</sup> January 1985

**Home:** Stevenage, England

**Career:** Formula One Racing  
Driver from 2007 to the present

**Races:** 243

**Wins:** 81

**Current team:** Mercedes



Lewis Hamilton is a famous British racing driver. He has won six Formula One world championships.

## His Early Life

When he was six, his father bought him a radio-controlled car. He raced it against adults and he won many races. Later, he raced in go-karts. He became the Karting World Number One when he was only fifteen.

## Formula One

Hamilton joined Formula One (F1) when he was 21. He finished third in his first ever race. In 2008, he won the F1 World Championship. He was the first black driver to win it.

In 2013, he moved to a new team. He went to Mercedes to partner with another driver called Nico Rosberg. They used to race go-karts together.

Lewis Hamilton has won more championships than any other British driver. He is still racing in 2019.

**Did You Know...?**

**His father's family live in the Caribbean.**



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# Questions

1. How many Formula One world championships has Lewis Hamilton won?

Tick **one**.

five

one

six

2. Which toy did his father buy him? Tick **one**.

a go-kart

a radio

a radio-controlled car

3. What is Lewis Hamilton's current racing team? Tick **one**.

Stevenage

Mercedes

F1 World Champion

4. What happened to Lewis Hamilton in 2008? Tick **one**.

He became the first ever black driver to win the F1 World Championship.

He moved to a new team.

He joined F1.

5. How did Lewis Hamilton know Nico Rosberg? Tick **one**.

They went to the same school.

They raced go-karts when they were young.

They were both born in Stevenage.

# Answers

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They were both born in Stevenage.

# Lewis Hamilton

Lewis Hamilton is the most successful British racing driver in history. He was also the first black racing driver in Formula One (F1).



## His Early Life

Lewis Hamilton was born on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1985. His father is black British and his mother is white British.

Lewis's father bought him a radio-controlled car when he was six. By eight years old, Lewis was winning go-kart races. At age ten, he met the boss of the McLaren F1 team and said to him, 'One day, I want to be racing your cars'. When he was fifteen, Lewis became the Karting World Number One.

## Formula One

In 2006, at age 21, Hamilton joined the McLaren team and F1. His first race was in Australia and he finished third. On 6<sup>th</sup> July 2008, he won the British Grand Prix. Later that year, he became the F1 World Champion. He was the first ever black driver to win a Formula One championship.

In 2013, he moved to Mercedes to partner with Nico Rosberg, who used to drive go-karts as well.

In 2017, Hamilton became the most successful British F1 driver in history after winning his 4<sup>th</sup> championship. He is still racing in 2019.

## Did You Know...?

**Hamilton played on both the cricket and football teams of his secondary school.**



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# Questions

1. When is Lewis Hamilton's birthday? Tick **one**.

6<sup>th</sup> July

7<sup>th</sup> January

9<sup>th</sup> June

2. Look at the **His Early Life** section. Draw lines to match these sentences:

At six years old...	●	●	he won the Karting World Championship.
At ten years old...	●	●	he was given a radio-controlled car.
At fifteen years old...	●	●	he spoke with the McLaren team boss.

3. What happened to Lewis Hamilton on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2008? Tick **one**.

He joined the McLaren team.

He joined the Mercedes team.

He won the British Grand Prix.

4. **Find** and **copy** a word which means 'to work with somebody else.'

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5. Which other sports did Lewis Hamilton play when he was young?

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# Answers

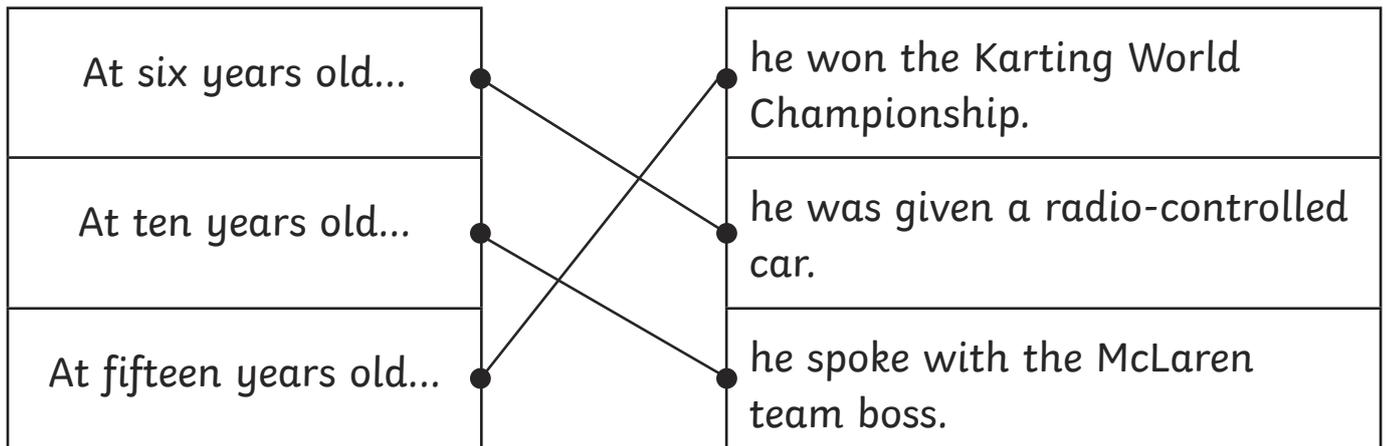
1. When is Lewis Hamilton's birthday? Tick **one**.

**6<sup>th</sup> July**

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2. Look at the His Early Life section. Draw lines to match these sentences:



3. What happened to Lewis Hamilton on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2008? Tick **one**.

He joined the McLaren team.

He joined the Mercedes team.

**He won the British Grand Prix.**

4. **Find** and **copy** a word which means 'to work with somebody else.'  
**partner**

5. Which other sports did Lewis Hamilton play when he was young?  
**He played cricket and football.**

# Lewis Hamilton

Lewis Hamilton is a talented British racing driver who has won the Formula One World Championship title six times. He is famous for being the most successful British racing driver in history. He is also the first black racing driver in Formula One (F1).



## His Early Life

Lewis Hamilton was born on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1985. He grew up on a council estate in Stevenage, England. His father is black British and his mother is white British. They divorced when he was two years old.

When he was six years old, Lewis's father bought him a radio-controlled car. His passion for racing had begun! By the time he was eight, Lewis was driving and winning go-kart races. At age ten, he met the boss of the McLaren F1 team and promised him that he would be driving his cars someday. By age fifteen, Lewis was crowned the Karting World Number One and was signed to McLaren's Young Driver Support Programme.

## Formula One

It was in 2006 when McLaren announced that rookie Hamilton would be joining the team, just as Hamilton had promised as a child!

Hamilton's first F1 race was in Australia in 2007, where he finished third. His first ever home win came on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2008, when he won the British Grand Prix. Later that year, he became the F1 World Champion, at the age of 23. Not only was he the first British driver to win a World

Championship since Damon Hill in 1996, but he was the first ever black driver to win.

In 2013, he moved to Mercedes and replaced Michael Schumacher, who was retiring. His partner was Nico Rosberg, an old rival from his childhood karting days.

In 2017, Hamilton became the most successful British F1 driver in history after winning his 4<sup>th</sup> championship. He is still racing in 2019.

**Did You Know...?**

**Hamilton's father's family live on the island of Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean.**



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# Questions

1. Who is Lewis Hamilton? Tick **two**.

- He is a British Formula One driver.
- He is the boss of the McLaren Formula One team.
- He is the first ever black Formula One racing driver.

2. What happened to Lewis Hamilton when he was six that started his interest in racing?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Look at the **His Early Life** section. Write numbers from 1 to 5 to put the statements in the correct order.

Statement	Number
He was given a radio-controlled car.	
His parents divorced.	
He spoke with the McLaren F1 team boss.	
He was born in Stevenage.	
He joined the McLaren Young Driver Support Programme.	

4. Look at the **Formula One** section.

**Find** and **copy** a word which means that Hamilton was a new team member.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Fill in the missing words.

Not only was he the first \_\_\_\_\_ driver to win a \_\_\_\_\_ Championship since Damon Hill in \_\_\_\_\_, but he was the first ever black driver to win.

6. Do you think Lewis Hamilton wanted to be a racing driver when he was little? Explain how you know.

\_\_\_\_\_

1. Who is Lewis Hamilton? Tick **two**.



**He is a British Formula One driver.**



He is the boss of the McLaren Formula One team.



**He is the first ever black Formula One racing driver.**

2. What happened to Lewis Hamilton when he was six that started his interest in racing?

**When he was six years old, his father gave him a radio-controlled car and that started his passion for racing.**

3. Look at the **His Early Life** section. Write numbers from 1 to 5 to put the statements in the correct order.

Statement	Number
He was given a radio-controlled car.	<b>3</b>
His parents divorced.	<b>2</b>
He spoke with the McLaren F1 team boss.	<b>4</b>
He was born in Stevenage.	<b>1</b>
He joined the McLaren Young Driver Support Programme.	<b>5</b>

4. Look at the **Formula One** section.

**Find** and **copy** a word which means that Hamilton was a new team member.

**rookie**

5. Fill in the missing words.

Not only was he the first **British** driver to win a **World** Championship since Damon Hill in **1996**, but he was the first ever black driver to win.

6. Do you think Lewis Hamilton wanted to be a racing driver when he was little?

Explain how you know.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think he did want to be a racing driver when he was little because he was driving and winning go-karts at eight years old. Also, he promised the McLaren team boss that he would drive his cars when he was only ten so this shows that he always had a dream of being a racing driver.**