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Thousands of Argentinians say goodbye to Maradona

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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 glimpse of the car carrying his body. The car was draped in the Argentina flag and 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
- 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

2. glimpse

3. trademark

4. weeping

passed away

6. regarded

7. greatest

8. eternal

9. rival

10. accolade

a. best

b. crying

c. thought of

d. challenger

e. brief look

f. everlasting

g. characteristic

h. died

i. honour

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?

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- 1. What's the capital of Argentina?
- 2. What was Maradona's number?
- 3. Where was his body put on display?
- 4, How were the people reacting?
- 5. When did Maradona die? How old was Maradona? What did he die of?
- 6. What did 1 fan say?
- 7. When did he help Argentina win the World Cup?
- 8. What did Messi say? What did Pele say?
- 9. Who do you think is the best soccer player in the world today? Who do you think is the best Korean soccer player ever?
- 10. What's your definition of a hero? Do you have a hero?
- 11. How many soccer players are there on a team? How long does a game last?

 Can you name 3 position players?
- a.
- b.
- C.