



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NBA TEAMS: ATLANTA HAWKS

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 4.
2. Who do you think was the greatest player in Hawks history? Why?
3. Why did the Hawks move to Atlanta in 1968?
 - A. Their star player forced them to move.
 - B. They were sold to a group from Georgia.
 - C. Their owner helped form a new league.
4. Why were people surprised to see Spud Webb win the Slam Dunk Contest?
 - A. Webb was very short for an NBA player.
 - B. Webb was playing with an injured leg.
 - C. Webb hadn't dunked before in a game.



5. What does **tribute** mean in the *Atlanta Hawks* book?

*In 2015, the Hawks put a statue of Wilkins in front of their arena. It paid **tribute** to the Hall of Famer.*

- A. respect
- B. similarity
- C. fame

6. What does **woes** mean in the *Atlanta Hawks* book?

*But their postseason **woes** continued. During that streak, they never got past the second round.*

- A. games
- B. problems
- C. success



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: ATLANTA HAWKS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. A
5. A
6. B



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NBA TEAMS: BOSTON CELTICS

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 2.
2. Who do you think was the greatest Celtics player of all time? Why?
3. Who led the Celtics to two titles as player-coach?
 - A. Jayson Tatum
 - B. Larry Bird
 - C. Bill Russell
4. When did the Celtics win their fifth title?
 - A. 1957
 - B. 1962
 - C. 2024



5. What does **dominated** mean in the *Boston Celtics* book?

*Over the next decade, the Celtics **dominated** the NBA. In 1959, they won their second NBA title. They won again in 1960.*

- A. lost many close games
- B. played better than other teams
- C. left the league

6. What does **standout** mean in the *Boston Celtics* book?

*Cowens had a **standout** season in 1977–78. He led his team in points, rebounds, assists, blocks, and steals.*

- A. lazy
- B. amazing
- C. painful



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: BOSTON CELTICS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. C
4. B
5. B
6. B



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NBA TEAMS: BROOKLYN NETS

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 4.
2. Who do you think was the greatest player in Nets history? Why?
3. Who won the first slam dunk contest?
 - A. Kevin Loughery
 - B. Julius Erving
 - C. Rick Barry
4. Why was the Nets' victory over the Philadelphia 76ers in the 1984 playoffs such a big win?
 - A. The Nets were favored to beat the 76ers.
 - B. The Nets had just gotten Julius Erving from the 76ers.
 - C. The 76ers were the defending NBA champions.



5. What does **vision** mean in the *Brooklyn Nets* book?

*And Kidd had great **vision**. He passed to the teammate with the best chance of scoring.*

- A. the ability to come down with tough rebounds
- B. the ability to drive past a defender and score
- C. the ability to see what's happening on the court

6. What does **versatile** mean in the *Brooklyn Nets* book?

*The center had a strong low-post game. In his last season with the Nets, Lopez became a good three-point shooter. That made him one of the league's most **versatile** big men.*

- A. able to do many things well
- B. excellent at just one skill
- C. staying the same over time



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: BROOKLYN NETS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. C
5. C
6. A



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NBA TEAMS: CHARLOTTE HORNETS

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 4.
2. Who do you think was the greatest player in Hornets history? Why?
3. When did the Hornets draft Emeka Okafor?
 - A. 1988
 - B. 2004
 - C. 2020
4. Why didn't Charlotte's new NBA team call itself the Hornets in 2004?
 - A. The NBA wouldn't allow any teams to use that name.
 - B. The team's owner didn't think fans liked that name.
 - C. A team in New Orleans was still using that name.



5. What does **effective** mean in the *Charlotte Hornets* book?

*Gill could score from just about anywhere. He was **effective** beneath the basket. He also became a good outside shooter.*

- A. bad at defense
- B. able to play well
- C. unable to run fast

6. What does **physical** mean in the *Charlotte Hornets* book?

*“Crash” played a **physical** style of basketball. This style sometimes resulted in injury. But fans and teammates loved his energy.*

- A. funny
- B. boring
- C. tough



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: CHARLOTTE HORNETS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. C
5. B
6. C



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NBA TEAMS: CHICAGO BULLS

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 4.
2. Who do you think is the greatest player in Bulls history? Why?
3. When did the Bulls win their first NBA title?
 - A. 1974
 - B. 1991
 - C. 2011
4. When Michael Jordan retired after the 1992–93 season, how many full seasons did he miss before returning?
 - A. three
 - B. two
 - C. one



5. What does **prospect** mean in the *Chicago Bulls* book?

*Scottie Pippen played college basketball at a small school in Arkansas. The Bulls thought he was a strong **prospect**. He joined the team in 1987.*

- A. a player people expect to fail
- B. a player people expect to do well
- C. a player people do not get along with

6. What does **mascot** mean in the *Chicago Bulls* book?

*The Bulls were the first NBA team to use a **mascot**. Chicago introduced Benny the Bull in 1969. Benny still represents the team today.*

- A. a symbol of a team
- B. a championship
- C. a draft pick



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: CHICAGO BULLS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. C
5. B
6. A



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NBA TEAMS: CLEVELAND CAVALIERS

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 2.
2. Who do you think was the greatest player in Cavaliers history? Why?
3. Which player hit the winning shot in Game 7 of a 1976 playoff series?
 - A. Bingo Smith
 - B. Zydrunas Ilgauskas
 - C. Dick Snyder
4. Why was LeBron James frustrated with the Cavaliers after the 2010 playoffs?
 - A. The team didn't let him play enough.
 - B. The team was good but fell short of a title.
 - C. The team had played poorly all season long.



5. What does **consecutive** mean in the *Cleveland Cavaliers* book?

*Cleveland won its first 15 games of the 2024–25 season. That set a team record for **consecutive** wins.*

- A. won by cheating
- B. in a row
- C. ending a season

6. What does **rallied** mean in the *Cleveland Cavaliers* book?

*The Golden State Warriors led the series three games to one. However, Cleveland **rallied** to win the last three games. At last, the Cavaliers were champions!*

- A. signed new players to the team
- B. stopped trying to win
- C. came back from behind



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: CLEVELAND CAVALIERS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. C
4. B
5. B
6. C



5. What does **clinch** mean in the *Dallas Mavericks* book?

*The Mavs opened the series with two wins. But the Miami Heat came back. Miami won the next four games to **clinch** the title.*

- A. to lose after being ahead
- B. to stop trying during a game
- C. to make something certain

6. What does **potential** mean in the *Dallas Mavericks* book?

*Few in the NBA knew much about him. But the Mavericks saw **potential**. They traded for him on draft day in 1998. In 2019, he retired as an NBA legend.*

- A. the ability to be great
- B. the place where a person is born
- C. the people who run a sports team



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: DALLAS MAVERICKS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. C
5. C
6. A



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NBA TEAMS: DENVER NUGGETS

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 5.
2. Who do you think was the greatest player in Nuggets history? Why?
3. When did the Nuggets join the NBA?
 - A. 1967
 - B. 1976
 - C. 1985
4. Why do the Nuggets win so many games at home?
 - A. Other teams get tired playing in Denver.
 - B. The Nuggets make a lot of threes at home.
 - C. The Nuggets play tougher defense in Denver.



5. What does **routine** mean in the *Denver Nuggets* book?

*Nikola Jokic played in his first All-Star Game in 2019. That became **routine** for him. In 2025, he made his seventh straight All-Star Game.*

- A. common
- B. rare
- C. dangerous

6. What does **thrived** mean in the *Denver Nuggets* book?

*Alex English played for two different teams in the late 1970s. But they didn't use him much. The Nuggets traded for English in 1980. He soon **thrived** in Denver. The small forward led Denver's offense.*

- A. didn't play much
- B. played poorly
- C. played well



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: DENVER NUGGETS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. A
5. A
6. C



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NBA TEAMS: DETROIT PISTONS

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 2.
2. Who do you think was the greatest player in Pistons history? Why?
3. Who was the first player to score 2,000 points in an NBA season?
 - A. George Yardley
 - B. Dave Bing
 - C. Jalen Duren
4. Why did few people expect the Pistons to win the NBA title in 2004?
 - A. The Pistons dealt with many injuries in the playoffs.
 - B. The Pistons were known for their tough defense.
 - C. The Pistons faced a team with several superstars.



5. What does **image** mean in the *Detroit Pistons* book?

*Other teams said the Pistons played dirty. Detroit's team became known as the "Bad Boys." Pistons players and fans loved their outlaw **image**.*

- A. the way people are thought of by others
- B. people who are known for being strong
- C. something that has gone wrong

6. What does **symbolizes** mean in the *Detroit Pistons* book?

*Detroit's mascot is a horse. His name is Hooper. The team created Hooper in 1996. He **symbolizes** the horsepower that helps cars perform.*

- A. dislikes
- B. stands for
- C. makes louder



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: DETROIT PISTONS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. A
4. C
5. A
6. B



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NBA TEAMS: GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 4.
2. Who do you think is the greatest player in Warriors history? Why?
3. When did the Warriors move from Philadelphia to San Francisco?
 - A. 1946
 - B. 1962
 - C. 1971
4. How did the Warriors improve when Steve Kerr became their head coach?
 - A. They played better defense.
 - B. They drafted better players.
 - C. They made more three-pointers.



5. What does **undefeated** mean in the *Golden State Warriors* book?

*In 2017, the Warriors won their first 15 playoff games. A 16th straight win would have made them the first team to go **undefeated** in the playoffs.*

- A. without playing
- B. without scoring
- C. without losing

6. What does **dazzled** mean in the *Golden State Warriors* book?

*Curry **dazzled** fans with his shooting. He could get hot at any moment.*

- A. impressed
- B. bored
- C. scared



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. C
5. C
6. A



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NBA TEAMS: HOUSTON ROCKETS

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 2.
2. Who do you think was the greatest player in Rockets history? Why?
3. Which player led the NBA in offensive rebounds five times with the Rockets?
 - A. Otis Thorpe
 - B. Moses Malone
 - C. Hakeem Olajuwon
4. Why was “Clutch City” a good nickname for the Rockets in 1994?
 - A. They failed to make the playoffs but earned a high draft pick.
 - B. They didn’t have many good players and lost a lot of games.
 - C. They came back from two games down in the conference finals.



5. What does **miracle** mean in the *Houston Rockets* book?

*Sampson wasn't facing the basket. But he tipped the ball in. The **miracle** shot won the series.*

- A. highly unlikely
- B. easier than usual
- C. not interesting

6. What does **investigated** mean in the *Houston Rockets* book?

*Olajuwon nearly had two quadruple-doubles. On March 3, 1990, Houston's scorer gave him credit for one. But the NBA **investigated** the game. The league found that Olajuwon recorded only nine assists.*

- A. forgot about
- B. stopped playing
- C. looked into



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: HOUSTON ROCKETS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. C
5. A
6. C



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NBA TEAMS: INDIANA PACERS

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 5.
2. Who do you think was the greatest player in Pacers history? Why?
3. How many seasons did Reggie Miller spend with the Pacers?
 - A. 12
 - B. 18
 - C. 25
4. Why might Pacers fans have wanted the team to draft Steve Alford instead of Reggie Miller?
 - A. Fans wanted a player from Indiana.
 - B. Miller was playing for the Knicks.
 - C. Fans wanted a point guard instead of a shooting guard.



5. What does **swingman** mean in the *Indiana Pacers* book?

*These skills made George an ideal **swingman**. He had a guard's quickness. He also had a forward's size and strength.*

- A. someone who plays only center
- B. a team's best player off the bench
- C. someone who can play guard and forward

6. What does **selfless** mean in the *Indiana Pacers* book?

*He is also **selfless**. Many superstars hog the ball. But Haliburton dishes out assist after assist.*

- A. thinking about and acting for oneself
- B. thinking about and acting for others
- C. thinking about and acting for no one



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: INDIANA PACERS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. A
5. C
6. B



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NBA TEAMS: LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS

1. Write a paragraph describing the main ideas of Chapter 4.
2. Who do you think was the greatest player in Clippers history? Why?
3. When did the Clippers first reach the conference finals?
 - A. 1976
 - B. 2006
 - C. 2021
4. Why did the Clippers build a new arena?
 - A. Their old arena was too small.
 - B. They did not want to share an arena with their rival.
 - C. They got kicked out of their old arena.



5. What does **swift** mean in the *Los Angeles Clippers* book?

*Three years later, Adrian Dantley won it. The **swift** forward sped past slower defenders.*

- A. clumsy
- B. fast
- C. old

6. What does **thrived** mean in the *Los Angeles Clippers* book?

*DeAndre Jordan **thrived** near the basket. He swatted away shots on defense. And he threw down hard dunks on offense.*

- A. failed to score
- B. played well
- C. left the team



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. C
4. B
5. B
6. B



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NBA TEAMS: LOS ANGELES LAKERS

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 2.
2. Who do you think was the best player in Lakers history? Why?
3. Which Lakers player was known as “Mr. Clutch”?
 - A. Elgin Baylor
 - B. Derek Fisher
 - C. Jerry West
4. Why did the 1980s become known as the Showtime era?
 - A. The team went through several head coaches.
 - B. The team was flashy, and games were fun.
 - C. The team played with very little excitement.



5. What does **versatile** mean in the *Los Angeles Lakers* book?

*Johnson was also **versatile**. In Game 6 of the 1980 Finals, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar was hurt. So, Johnson started at center. Johnson went on to play all five positions in the game.*

- A. able to do only one thing well
- B. able to perform more than one skill
- C. able to win many championships

6. What does **dynasty** mean in the *Los Angeles Lakers* book?

*The title in 2000 kicked off a new **dynasty**. In 2001, the Lakers cruised through the playoffs. They lost only one postseason game. Los Angeles notched a second straight title. In 2002, the Lakers made it three in a row.*

- A. a period of great success
- B. a player who joins a new team
- C. a set of games that decides a champion



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: LOS ANGELES LAKERS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. C
4. B
5. B
6. A



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NBA TEAMS: MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 4.
2. Who do you think was the greatest player in Grizzlies history? Why?
3. Who was the Grizzlies' first All-Star?
 - A. Marc Gasol
 - B. Pau Gasol
 - C. Zach Randolph
4. Why is scoring in the paint often left to the big men?
 - A. Big players can shoot over defenders.
 - B. Big players usually have excellent quickness.
 - C. Big players focus on scoring three-pointers.



5. What does **tradition** mean in the *Memphis Grizzlies* book?

*In 2004, the Grizzlies passed out towels to fans before playoff games. The “Growl Towels” became a **tradition**. They often feature popular slogans. Supporters still love collecting them.*

- A. a one-time event that is not popular
- B. a way of doing something over many years
- C. a difficult job that nobody wants to do

6. What does **heaved** mean in the *Memphis Grizzlies* book?

*Grizzlies center Steven Adams **heaved** an inbounds pass. It traveled 92 feet (28 m) downcourt. Ja Morant caught the ball in midair.*

- A. rebounded
- B. blocked
- C. threw



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. A
5. B
6. C



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NBA TEAMS: MIAMI HEAT

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 4.
2. Who do you think was the greatest player in Heat history? Why?
3. Who was the MVP of the 2006 NBA Finals?
 - A. Alonzo Mourning
 - B. LeBron James
 - C. Dwyane Wade
4. Why did the Heat honor Dan Marino's number?
 - A. Marino was a legendary athlete in Miami.
 - B. Marino helped bring the Heat to Miami.
 - C. Marino was the Heat's all-time leading scorer.



5. What does **upset** mean in the *Miami Heat* book?

*In the first round, the Heat **upset** the top-seeded Milwaukee Bucks. It was just the sixth time a No. 8 had beaten a No. 1.*

- A. played a team from a different basketball league
- B. beat a team that was supposed to be better
- C. lost all four games in a playoff series

6. What does **veteran** mean in the *Miami Heat* book?

***Veteran** guard Ray Allen joined Miami in 2012. The 10-time All-Star was near the end of his career.*

- A. a fast player who is known for his flashy play
- B. a player who has spent several years in a league
- C. a young player who is just starting his career



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: MIAMI HEAT

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. C
4. A
5. B
6. B



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NBA TEAMS: MILWAUKEE BUCKS

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 4.
2. Who do you think was the greatest player in Bucks history? Why?
3. Who became Milwaukee's head coach in 1998?
 - A. Don Nelson
 - B. George Karl
 - C. Mike Budenholzer
4. Why was Milwaukee's 1971 title surprising to many basketball fans?
 - A. The Bucks were planning to switch conferences.
 - B. The Bucks didn't have any good players on the team.
 - C. The Bucks had just formed a few years earlier.



5. What does **donated** mean in the *Milwaukee Bucks* book?

*Lloyd Pettit gave the Bucks a big gift in 1985. He **donated** money for a new arena.*

- A. played well enough to win a title
- B. gave money to help with something
- C. stopped supporting a basketball team

6. What does **hype** mean in the *Milwaukee Bucks* book?

*Abdul-Jabbar lived up to the **hype**. He won the Rookie of the Year Award in 1969–70.*

- A. claims that someone would be good
- B. awards given to people who play well
- C. players who are new to a league



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: MILWAUKEE BUCKS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. C
5. B
6. A



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NBA TEAMS: MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 4.
2. Who do you think was the best player in Timberwolves history? Why?
3. Which city did the Timberwolves almost move to?
 - A. Dallas
 - B. Los Angeles
 - C. New Orleans
4. Why was it risky for Minnesota to pick Kevin Garnett in the draft?
 - A. He wasn't very tall for a power forward.
 - B. He came to the NBA straight from high school.
 - C. He preferred playing football to basketball.



5. What does **trend** mean in the *Minnesota Timberwolves* book?

*Minnesota started a bad **trend** in 1997. The Wolves kept making the playoffs. But they kept losing in the first round.*

- A. something that keeps happening
- B. something that has never happened
- C. something that is hard to see

6. What does **predict** mean in the *Minnesota Timberwolves* book?

*ESPN asked 12 experts to **predict** which team would win. Eleven of the experts picked the Lakers.*

- A. ask
- B. forget
- C. guess



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. C
4. B
5. A
6. C



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NBA TEAMS: NEW ORLEANS PELICANS

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 5.
2. Who do you think was the greatest player in Pelicans history? Why?
3. When did the Hornets change their name to the Pelicans?
 - A. 2002
 - B. 2013
 - C. 2019
4. Why did the Pelicans start building their team around Zion Williamson in 2019?
 - A. The Pelicans wanted to get players who worked well with their star.
 - B. The Pelicans wanted older players who would learn from Williamson.
 - C. The Pelicans planned to trade Williamson the next season.



5. What does **dominate** mean in the *New Orleans Pelicans* book?

*His size and physical play helped him **dominate**. Davis grabbed rebound after rebound. On offense, he dazzled fans with his monster dunks. And on defense, few were better at blocking shots.*

- A. make lots of foolish mistakes
- B. play much better than others
- C. take shots from far away

6. What does **retired** mean in the *New Orleans Pelicans* book?

*The Hall of Famer led the league in scoring in 1976–77. At the Hornets' first game in New Orleans, the team **retired** Maravich's jersey. No player could wear No. 7.*

- A. joined a team that had a long history of winning games
- B. ended a career after playing in a league for many seasons
- C. honored a player by making his number off-limits



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: NEW ORLEANS PELICANS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. A
5. B
6. C



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NBA TEAMS: NEW YORK KNICKS

1. Write a few sentences explaining the main ideas of Chapter 3.
2. Who do you think was the best player in Knicks history? Why?
3. When did the Knicks win their first NBA title?
 - A. 1949
 - B. 1970
 - C. 1973
4. Who coached the Knicks to their first two NBA titles?
 - A. Pat Riley
 - B. Jeff Van Gundy
 - C. Red Holzman



5. What does **competitive** mean in the *New York Knicks* book?

*They selected towering center Patrick Ewing. He helped New York improve. Soon, the Knicks were **competitive** again.*

- A. likely to win many games
- B. likely to lose many games
- C. likely to trade away many players

6. What does **motivated** mean in the *New York Knicks* book?

*Then Johnson sank a free throw. The miracle play **motivated** the Knicks. They won the series.*

- A. gave the team energy
- B. made the team sad
- C. led the team to a loss



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: NEW YORK KNICKS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. C
5. A
6. A



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NBA TEAMS: OKLAHOMA CITY THUNDER

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 2.
2. Who do you think was the greatest player in Thunder history? Why?
3. Russell Westbrook became only the second player to do what for an entire season?
 - A. play every game
 - B. never miss a basket
 - C. average a triple-double
4. Why was Gary Payton nicknamed “The Glove”?
 - A. He always wore a glove while playing.
 - B. On defense, he covered opposing players tightly.
 - C. His right hand was much bigger than his left hand.



5. What does **boasted** mean in the *Oklahoma City Thunder* book?

*By then, the team had some talented players. In 1977–78, the Sonics **boasted** a strong defense. It took them all the way to the NBA Finals.*

- A. lost several players to injury
- B. played in many close games
- C. had something that was good

6. What does **inspired** mean in the *Oklahoma City Thunder* book?

*In 1967, Boeing was working on a new supersonic jet. This **inspired** the name for the new NBA team.*

- A. helped form an idea
- B. sped something up
- C. shot into the air



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: OKLAHOMA CITY THUNDER

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. C
4. B
5. C
6. A



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NBA TEAMS: ORLANDO MAGIC

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 2.
2. Who do you think was the greatest player in Magic history? Why?
3. Who broke Shaquille O’Neal’s single-game rebounding record in 2012?
 - A. Paolo Banchero
 - B. Dwight Howard
 - C. Nikola Vucevic
4. What showed the strength of the Magic’s defense in the 2024–25 season?
 - A. The Magic allowed the fewest points per game in the NBA.
 - B. Paolo Banchero shot well from three-point range in the playoffs.
 - C. The Magic released new jerseys.



5. What does **hustle** mean in the *Orlando Magic* book?

*They played hard every game. They ended up going 41–41. People called the team “Heart and **Hustle.**”*

- A. winning titles
- B. moving slowly
- C. trying hard

6. What does **elite** mean in the *Orlando Magic* book?

*The forward joined **elite** company. He scored at least 25 points in seven straight playoff games. Only Hall of Famers Kobe Bryant and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar had done that before the age of 23.*

- A. the most common
- B. the best of the best
- C. the youngest



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: ORLANDO MAGIC

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. C
4. A
5. C
6. B



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NBA TEAMS: PHILADELPHIA 76ERS

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 4.
2. Who do you think was the best player in 76ers history? Why?
3. When did the 76ers trade for Wilt Chamberlain?
 - A. 1965
 - B. 1967
 - C. 1982
4. Why was Moses Malone the missing piece that the 76ers needed?
 - A. The 76ers traded all of their best players to get Malone.
 - B. The 76ers had never made the playoffs before Malone joined.
 - C. The 76ers won the Finals in Malone's first season with the team.



5. What does **tradition** mean in the *Philadelphia 76ers* book?

*The 76ers have a replica of the bell. It is wheeled out to center court before each game. A celebrity guest rings it. The **tradition** began in 2013.*

- A. an act that is repeated many times over the years
- B. a loud noise that can be heard for miles around
- C. the first quarter of a basketball game

6. What does **confident** mean in the *Philadelphia 76ers* book?

*Moses Malone felt **confident** that the 76ers would win the 1983 title. A reporter asked him how the team would do in the playoffs. Malone said Philadelphia would win every game.*

- A. doubtful
- B. sure
- C. worried



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: PHILADELPHIA 76ERS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. A
4. C
5. A
6. B



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NBA TEAMS: PHOENIX SUNS

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 5.
2. Who do you think was the greatest player in Suns history? Why?
3. When did the Suns reach the NBA Finals for the first time?
 - A. 1976
 - B. 1993
 - C. 2021
4. Why did the Suns score so much under coach Mike D'Antoni?
 - A. They played hard defense.
 - B. They played at a slow pace.
 - C. They shot the ball quickly.



5. What does **flashy** mean in the *Phoenix Suns* book?

*The “Hawk” seemed to glide through the air. The forward was known for his **flashy** dunks.*

- A. exciting
- B. boring
- C. easy

6. What does **torched** mean in the *Phoenix Suns* book?

*Charles Barkley **torched** the Golden State Warriors in a 1994 playoff game. He scored 56 points. That set a Suns playoff record.*

- A. lit something on fire
- B. played well against
- C. struggled to score



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: PHOENIX SUNS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. A
4. C
5. A
6. B



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NBA TEAMS: PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of chapter 2.
2. Who do you think was the greatest player in Trail Blazers history? Why?
3. Which player holds the team record for most rebounds?
 - A. Bill Walton
 - B. Clyde Drexler
 - C. LaMarcus Aldridge
4. Why did fans call the final minutes of close games “Dame Time?”
 - A. Damian Lillard often made clutch shots.
 - B. Damian Lillard often looked at the game clock.
 - C. Damian Lillard often played poorly in the playoffs.



5. What does **postseason** mean in the *Portland Trail Blazers* book?

*In the 2003–04 season, the Blazers missed the playoffs. That ended a 21-year **postseason** streak.*

- A. regular season games
- B. playoff games
- C. preseason games

6. What does **intense** mean in the *Portland Trail Blazers* book?

*Rasheed Wallace played **intense** defense. He always wanted to guard the other team's best big man.*

- A. average
- B. low-effort
- C. high-effort



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. C
4. A
5. B
6. C



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NBA TEAMS: SACRAMENTO KINGS

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 4.
2. Who do you think was the greatest player in Royals/Kings history? Why?
3. When did Peja Stojakovic start playing for the Kings?
 - A. 1996
 - B. 1998
 - C. 2002
4. Why did the Royals leave Cincinnati?
 - A. They didn't have enough fans in the city.
 - B. Their arena was too small for an NBA team.
 - C. They were forming a new basketball league.



5. What does **competing** mean in the *Sacramento Kings* book?

*The leagues spent three years trying to sign the best players. Then they decided to stop **competing**. They came together and formed the NBA.*

- A. trying to stop a game
- B. trying to beat someone else
- C. trying to create a new league

6. What does **slump** mean in the *Sacramento Kings* book?

*The Kings ended their **slump** in the late 1990s. Beginning in 1998–99, Sacramento made the playoffs eight seasons in a row.*

- A. a time when games don't count
- B. a time with lots of success
- C. a time without much winning



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: SACRAMENTO KINGS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. A
5. B
6. C



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NBA TEAMS: SAN ANTONIO SPURS

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 4.
2. Who do you think was the greatest player in Spurs history? Why?
3. Who was the MVP of the 2014 NBA Finals?
 - A. Tim Duncan
 - B. Tony Parker
 - C. Kawhi Leonard
4. Why did the Spurs stop playing in the Alamodome?
 - A. It was too far away from San Antonio.
 - B. It was not made for basketball games.
 - C. It was too small for the fans.



5. What does **dynasty** mean in the *San Antonio Spurs* book?

*The Spurs had won five titles in 16 seasons. They were a **dynasty**.*

- A. a team with very young players
- B. a team that got a new coach
- C. a team that wins titles often

6. What does **dominant** mean in the *San Antonio Spurs* book?

*By 1998–99, San Antonio was **dominant**. No team won more games that season.*

- A. excellent
- B. very bad
- C. a new team



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: SAN ANTONIO SPURS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. C
4. B
5. C
6. A



5. What does **expand** mean in the *Toronto Raptors* book?

*The National Basketball Association (NBA) wanted to **expand** in the early 1990s. The league added two teams in Canada.*

- A. get bigger
- B. get smaller
- C. stay the same

6. What does **exploded** mean in the *Toronto Raptors* book?

*Three of his five dunks earned perfect scores. The crowd **exploded** after his slams.*

- A. didn't see
- B. stayed quiet
- C. got very loud



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: TORONTO RAPTORS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. C
5. A
6. C



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NBA TEAMS: UTAH JAZZ

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 4.
2. Who do you think was the greatest player in Jazz history? Why?
3. Who made a three-pointer to send the Jazz to the NBA Finals in 1997?
 - A. Rudy Gobert
 - B. Karl Malone
 - C. John Stockton
4. When did the Jazz play in their second NBA Finals?
 - A. 1984
 - B. 1998
 - C. 2007



5. What does **underdog** mean in the *Utah Jazz* book?

*John Stockton was a classic **underdog**. The point guard was just six feet, one inch (185 cm) tall. He came from a tiny college.*

- A. a player people don't expect to succeed
- B. the tallest player on a basketball team
- C. a player who is too old to play well

6. What does **boards** mean in the *Utah Jazz* book?

*Gobert also won the NBA rebounding title in 2021–22. He averaged 14.7 **boards** per game.*

- A. titles
- B. rebounds
- C. wins



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: UTAH JAZZ

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. C
4. B
5. A
6. B



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NBA TEAMS: WASHINGTON WIZARDS

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 4.
2. Who do you think was the greatest player in Wizards history? Why?
3. How many times did the Bullets play in the NBA Finals in the 1970s?
 - A. two
 - B. four
 - C. six
4. Why was Marcin Gortat nicknamed the “Polish Hammer”?
 - A. He hit many three-pointers in games.
 - B. He played physically and forcefully.
 - C. He worked in construction before joining the NBA.



5. What does **consistent** mean in the *Washington Wizards* book?

*The Bullets were a **consistent** team in the 1970s. They went 483–337 from 1969–70 to 1978–79. That was third-best in the league.*

- A. having no pattern over time
- B. having a short time of success
- C. good over a long period of time

6. What does **durable** mean in the *Washington Wizards* book?

*He became one of the league's most **durable** players. He missed only nine games in his 16-season career.*

- A. short
- B. healthy
- C. slow



ANSWER KEY FOR NBA TEAMS: WASHINGTON WIZARDS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. B
5. C
6. B