

# Kevin Garnett

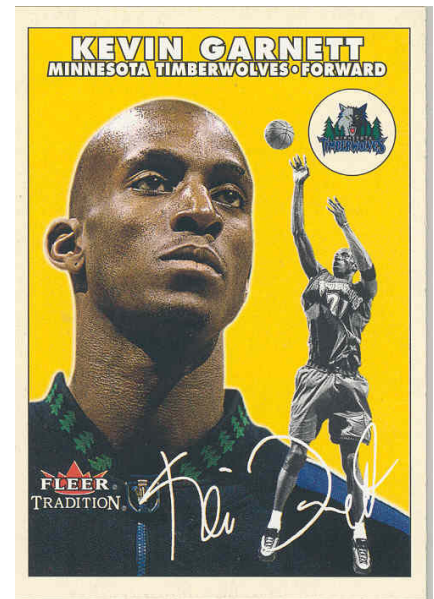
## Pre-reading

### Questions:

- What do you know about Kevin Garnett?
- What would you like to know about Kevin Garnett?

### Definitions:

- 6'11" = 6 feet 11 inches
- NBA – abbreviation for National Basketball Association



## Reading

Kevin Garnett, often known as K.G., is basketball. He lives and breathes the game.

14 Growing up, he shot baskets for hours every day. Friends remember him having a ball in his hands  
32 at all times. He more than enjoyed the game. He was **obsessed** with it. Friends say he *had* to play.

52 Kevin Maurice Garnett was born May 19, 1976, in Mauldin, South Carolina. His mother  
66 and father never married. Kevin grew up with this mother, step-father, and two sisters. Kevin's  
82 step-father did not support Kevin playing basketball. He wouldn't even allow a basketball hoop in  
98 the driveway. Kevin found the basketball court at a local park to be his real home.

114 In high school he was voted Mr. Basketball. He averaged 25 points and 18 rebounds a  
130 game. High school coaches say he was a **generous** team player. He easily could have scored more  
147 points a game, but he passed the ball and helped others score. It wasn't about how many points he  
166 made; it was about playing the game he loved.

175 Kevin entered the 1995 NBA draft right out of high school. He was the first player to go  
193 from high school to the NBA in twenty years. On October 2, 1995, Kevin signed a three-year, \$5.6  
212 million contract with the Minnesota Timberwolves. He was just 19 years old.

224 The NBA has proved to be a good fit for K.G. In his second season with the  
241 Timberwolves, he went to the All-Star Game. In fact, he became the first Timberwolves player to  
258 start in the All-Star Game. He also led the team to its first playoff game that same year.

277 The 6'11" forward remains **loyal** to the team that first drafted him back in 1995. In 1997 he  
296 signed a record \$125 million contract over six years. This was the largest deal ever for an athlete  
314 in a team sport. In 2003 he agreed to a five year, \$100 million deal with the Timberwolves. What  
333 does the future hold for K.G.? More basketball, of course, and lots more money!!!

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## Understanding

1. What does the word **obsess** mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What was unique about Garnett's draft into the NBA? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What does the word **generous** mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did Kevin's high school coaches describe him as **generous**? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What position does Garnett play? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How would you define the word **loyal** in this story? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What state do the Timberwolves call home? \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Writing

Option A: Summarize the story in your own words.

Option B: Write about your favorite sport or your favorite athlete.

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