

## ANDRÉ AGASSI

### *Bouncing Back*

André Agassi was born in 1970 in Las Vegas, Nevada. His father decided one of his four children would become a tennis pro. A story says that he hung a tennis ball over André's crib when he was a baby. It worked! André went on to become the No. 1 tennis player in the world.

In 1988, André won six tournaments. He was ranked No. 3 in the world. Agassi has a flamboyant style. He did not play at Wimbledon for several years. He wanted to wear flashy tennis clothes with a lot of color. There was a rule that only white tennis attire could be worn at the famous tennis match. In 1992, he did play at Wimbledon and won!

For a time, he could not focus on his game. During the 1997 season, André cut back on his playing time because of a wrist injury. He plunged from No. 1 in the rankings to No. 141.



He worked hard to rebuild his tennis career. In 1999, he won his second U.S. Open. This made the year his best ever. He had earned five major tennis titles. He again claimed the No. 1 spot.

In 2000, Agassi learned that his mother and sister had cancer. He was very upset. His sister was to begin taking medicine that would cause her hair to fall out. André and his brother Phil shaved their heads to show support for her.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## ANDRÉ AGASSI

Draw a line to match each underlined word with its definition.

1. attire elaborate or colorful display or behavior
2. flamboyant showy; often marked by gaudy brightness
3. flashy to concentrate attention or effort
4. focus dress; clothes

Complete the sentences by using words from the story.

1. André Agassi was born in \_\_\_\_\_, Nevada.
2. His father wanted one of his children to become a \_\_\_\_\_ player.
3. Agassi has a \_\_\_\_\_ style.
4. He wanted to wear \_\_\_\_\_ tennis clothes.
5. There was a rule that only white tennis \_\_\_\_\_ could be worn.
6. In 1992, he did play \_\_\_\_\_ and won!
7. For a time, he could not \_\_\_\_\_ on his game.
8. He plunged from No. \_\_\_\_\_ to No. \_\_\_\_\_ in the rankings.
9. He worked hard to \_\_\_\_\_ his tennis career.
10. He again \_\_\_\_\_ the No. 1 spot.
11. He learned that his mother and \_\_\_\_\_ had cancer.
12. His sister was to begin taking \_\_\_\_\_ that would cause her hair to fall out.
13. André and his brother Phil shaved their heads to show \_\_\_\_\_ for her.

**Research:** André Agassi's father came to the U.S. from Iran. Find *Iran* in a dictionary or an encyclopedia. What is the former name of Iran?