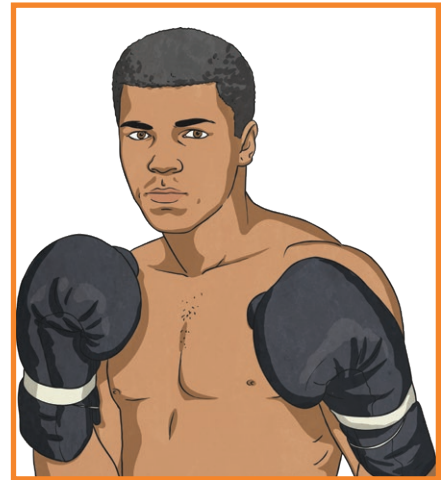


Famous Conscientious Objectors: Muhammad Ali

Muhammad Ali was an American boxer. During his career, Ali fought in 61 boxing matches and recorded 56 wins, 37 of which were knockouts.

In 1967, Ali was called to join America's war in Vietnam. There was a draft law in America at the time. The draft law meant that if you were called to fight, you had to report to your local draft board for military service. Ali was a conscientious objector and refused to be drafted into the armed forces because it was against his religious beliefs.

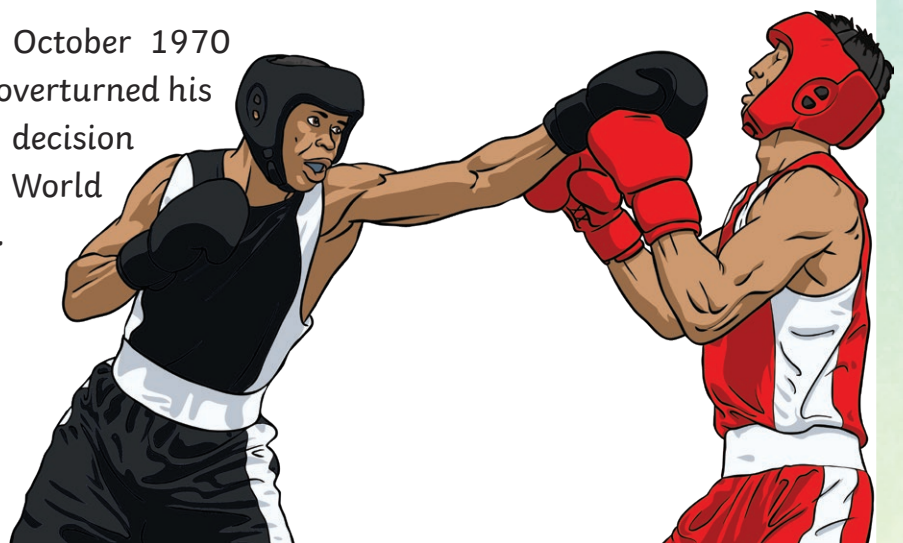


Many people believed that the draft was very unfair as most American soldiers drafted to Vietnam were from poor and working-class families. Men were able to delay the draft or ask for exemption. Reasons for exemption included: being a college student, being employed in certain job roles, being married, being a father, having a medical condition.

Ali's application for exemption from the draft due to being a conscientious objector was denied and he was arrested for draft evasion. Ali was fined \$10,000, banned from boxing for three years, sentenced to five years in prison, and had his passport taken.

Ali did not serve time in prison because he was allowed bail while he appealed the decision in court. Although he did not go to prison, Ali suffered greatly for his decision not to enlist. He was stripped of his World Heavyweight title and lost millions of dollars in earnings because he was banned from fighting.

Ali returned to boxing in October 1970 and the US Supreme Court overturned his conviction in a unanimous decision in 1971. He regained his World Heavyweight title in 1974.



Questions

1. Join the boxes to match the facts.

61

56

37

● Number of matches fought

● Number of knockouts won

● Number of wins

2. What happened to Ali when he refused to fight? Tick three.

- He went to prison.
- He was fined \$10,000.
- He was banned from boxing for 3 years.
- He had his passport taken.

3. Why did Muhammad Ali refuse to fight in the Vietnam War?

4. Find and copy a word that means **sign up to join the military**.

5. Fill in the missing words.

The US Supreme Court _____ his conviction in a _____ decision.

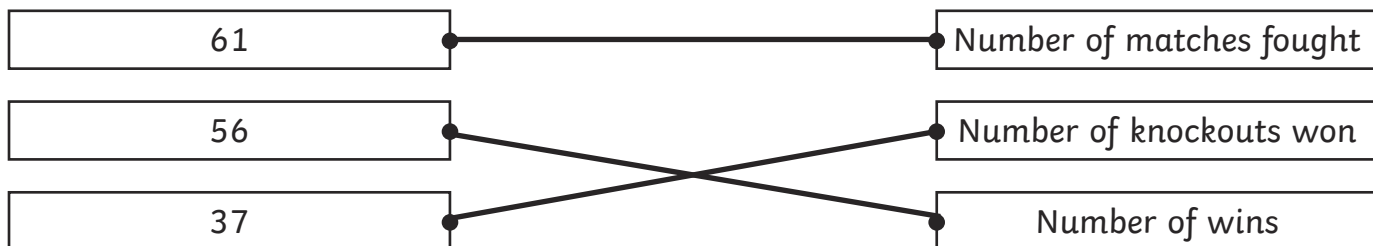
6. Why do you think that the American government let some people delay enlisting in the military?

7. Why do you think Muhammad Ali was punished so harshly for refusing to fight in the Vietnam War?

8. After he retired, Muhammad Ali spent time carrying out work for charity and human rights. Why do you think it helps charities to have the support of famous people?

Answers

1. Join the boxes to match the facts.



2. What happened to Ali when he refused to fight? Tick three.

- He went to prison.
- He was fined \$10,000.**
- He was banned from boxing for 3 years.**
- He had his passport taken.**

3. Why did Muhammad Ali refuse to fight in the Vietnam War?

Muhammad Ali refused to fight as he said that it was against his religious beliefs.

4. Find and copy a word that means sign up to join the military.

enlist

5. Fill in the missing words.

The US Supreme Court **overturned** his conviction in a **unanimous** decision.

6. Why do you think that the American government let some people delay enlisting in the military?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the American government let some people delay enlisting in the military so that they could finish their college course or recover from medical problems first.

7. Why do you think Muhammad Ali was punished so harshly for refusing to fight in the Vietnam War?

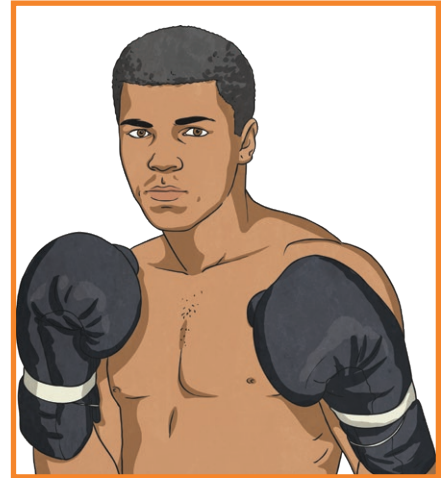
Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Muhammad Ali was punished so harshly for refusing to fight in the Vietnam War to show non-famous people that it would be difficult to avoid signing up and to encourage them to do so.

8. After he retired, Muhammad Ali spent time carrying out work for charity and human rights. Why do you think it helps charities to have the support of famous people?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think it helps charities to have the support of famous people because their fame can help people learn about different charities and they might also be able to afford to give more money.

Famous Conscientious Objectors: Muhammad Ali

Muhammad Ali (born Cassius Clay) was an American boxer. During his career, Ali fought in 61 boxing matches and recorded 56 wins, 37 of which were knockouts. Ali won the World Heavyweight Championship in 1964; he also changed his name this year, when he converted to Islam.

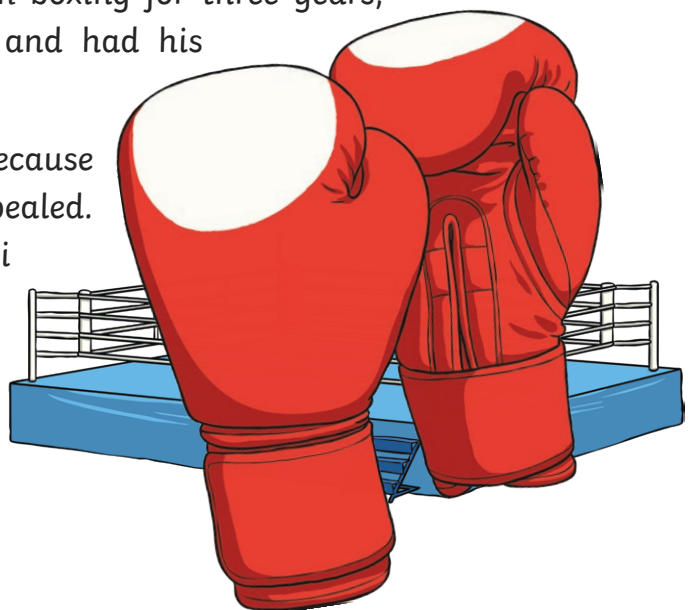


In 1967, Muhammad Ali was called to join America's war in Vietnam. There was a draft law in America at the time. The draft law meant that if you were called you had to report to your local draft board for military service. In 1967, more than 300,000 American men were called to sign up.

Many people believed that the draft was discriminatory as most American soldiers conscripted to Vietnam were from poor and working-class families. Men were able to delay the draft or ask for exemption. Reasons for exemption included: being a college student, being employed in certain job roles, being married, being a father, having a medical condition. Most of the deferments went to rich people, who could afford college, had better jobs and who could pay for medical care.

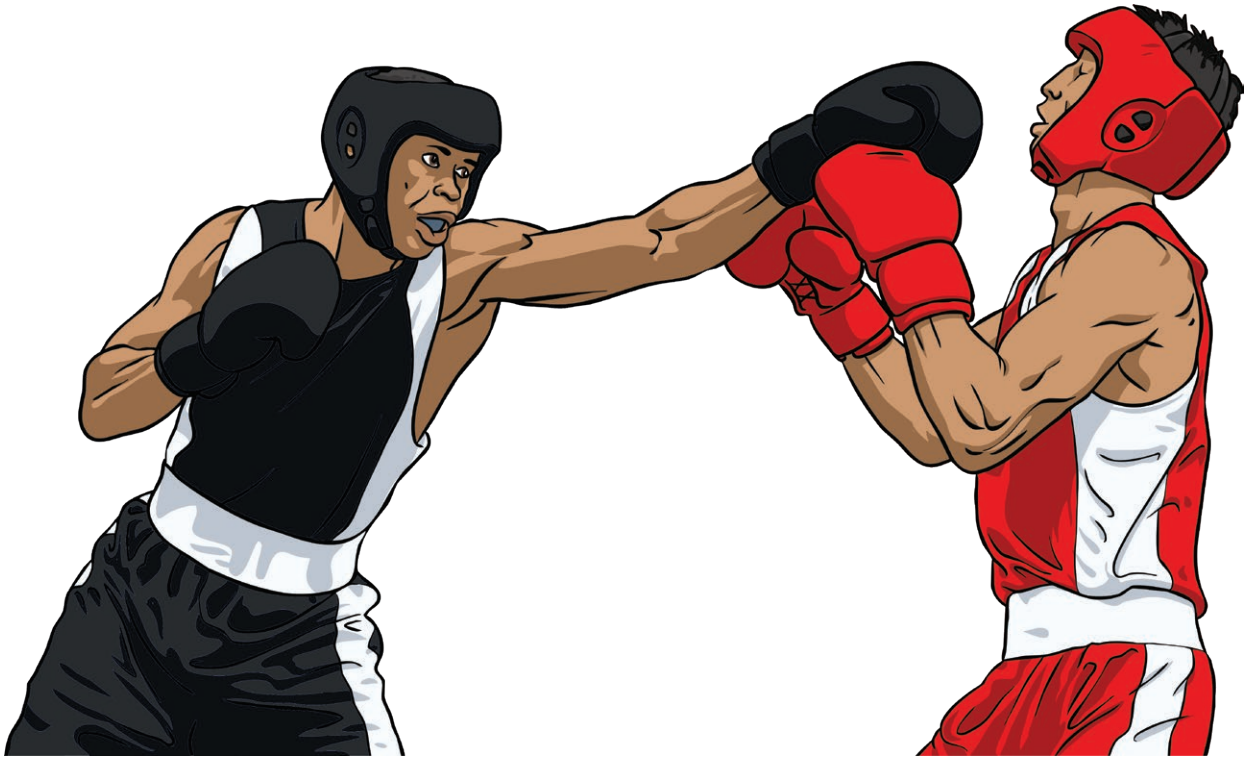
Ali was a conscientious objector and refused to be drafted into the armed forces because it was against his religious beliefs. Ali was arrested for draft evasion. He was fined \$10,000, banned from boxing for three years, sentenced to five years in prison, and had his passport taken.

Ali did not serve time in prison because he was allowed bail while he appealed. Although he did not go to jail, Ali still suffered for his decision; he was stripped of his World Heavyweight title and lost millions of dollars in earnings because he was banned from fighting.

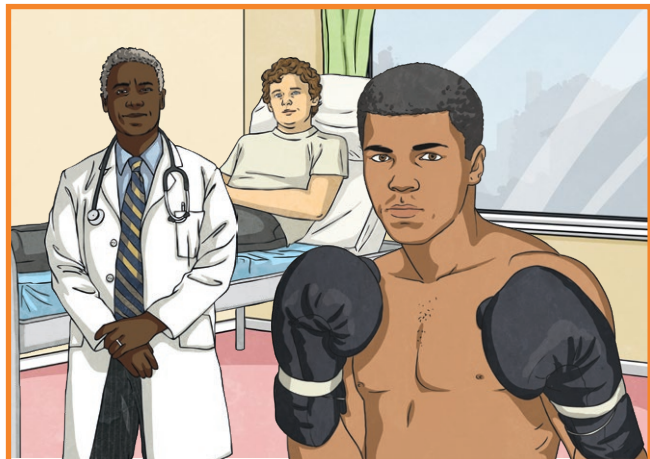


Famous Conscientious Objectors: Muhammad Ali

Ali returned to boxing in October 1970 after 43 months of being unable to fight. The US Supreme Court overturned his draft conviction in 1971. Ali reclaimed the World Title when he fought and won against George Foreman in 1974.



Muhammed Ali is not only regarded as one of the greatest boxers of all time, he is also known for his commitment to charity work and human rights. Ali said that he wanted to be more than just a boxer and that he wanted to use his fame to help others.



Muhammad Ali visiting sick fans in hospital

Questions

1. When did Muhammad Ali change his name? Tick one.

- 1942
- 1967
- 1964

2. Who could delay their draft into the military? Tick three.

- college students
- working class men
- people with a medical condition
- married men

3. Why did Muhammad Ali refuse to be drafted?

4. Find and copy a word that means to put something off.

5. Fill in the missing words.

Many people believed that the draft was _____ as most American soldiers _____ to Vietnam were from poor and working-class families.

6. Why do you think most people who avoided the draft were people who had more money?

7. Explain why you think the US government punished people for avoiding the draft.

8. Do you think stripping Ali of his world title was a fair punishment?

Give a reason for your answer.

9. Ali was not able to fight for over 3 and a half years. Why do you think that it might have been difficult for him to return to boxing after this time?

Answers

1. When did Muhammad Ali change his name? Tick one.

- 1942
- 1967
- 1964**

2. Who could delay their draft into the military? Tick three.

- college students**
- working class men
- people with a medical condition**
- married men**

3. Why did Muhammad Ali refuse to be drafted?

Muhammad Ali refused to be drafted as he said it was against his religious beliefs.

4. Find and copy a word that means to put something off.

defer

5. Fill in the missing words.

Many people believed that the draft was **discriminatory** as most American soldiers **conscripted** to Vietnam were from poor and working-class families.

6. Why do you think most people who avoided the draft were people who had more money?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think people who had more money avoided the draft more because they had better jobs so could afford college and medical care.

7. Explain why you think the US government punished people for avoiding the draft.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the US government punished people for avoiding the draft to make it a difficult choice to do the same and to encourage people to sign up for the military.

8. Do you think stripping Ali of his world title was a fair punishment?

Give a reason for your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: No, I do not think it was not fair because he had not cheated when he won and not enlisting did not change that.

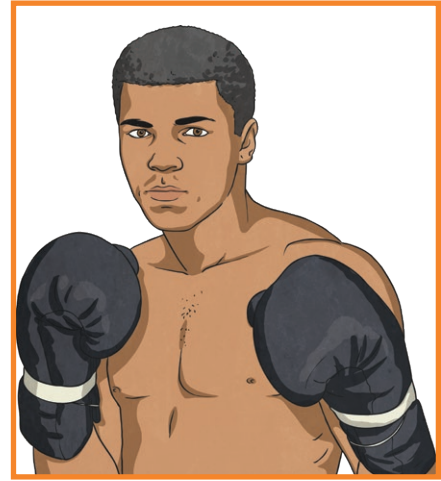
9. Ali was not able to fight for over 3 and a half years. Why do you think that it might have been difficult for him to return to boxing after this time?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think it might have been difficult for him to return to boxing as he had not been able to train properly or fight other people. He might also have lost his confidence.

Famous Conscientious Objectors: Muhammad Ali

Muhammad Ali (born Cassius Clay) was an American boxer. During his career, Ali fought in 61 boxing matches and recorded 56 wins, 37 of which were knockouts.

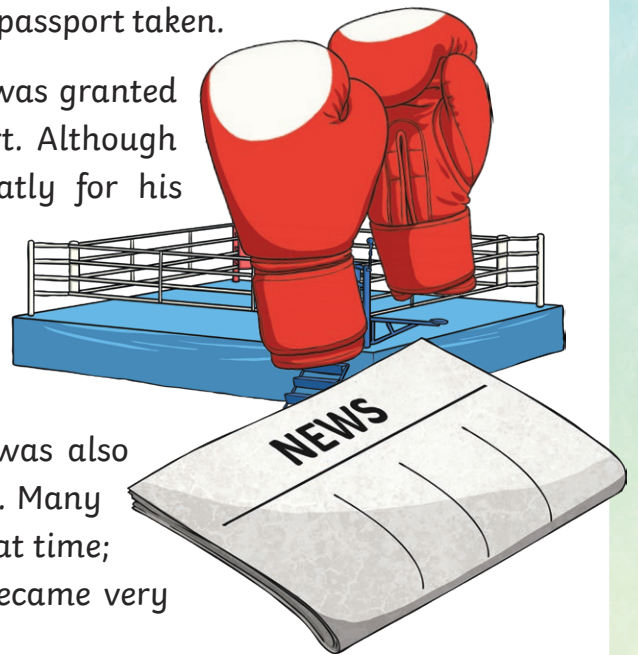
In 1967, Muhammad Ali was called to join America's war in Vietnam. There was a draft law in America at the time. The draft law meant that if you were called you had to report to your local draft board for military service. In 1967, more than 300,000 American men were called to sign up.



Many people believed that the draft was discriminatory as most American soldiers drafted to Vietnam were from poor and working-class families. Men were able to delay the draft or ask for exemption. Reasons for exemption included: being a college student, being employed in certain job roles, being married, being a father, having a medical condition. Most of the deferments went to rich people, who could afford college, had better jobs and who could pay for medical care.

Ali was a conscientious objector and refused to be drafted into the armed forces because he felt it was against his religious beliefs as a Muslim. Ali was arrested for draft evasion. He was fined \$10,000, banned from boxing for three years, sentenced to five years in prison, and had his passport taken.

Ali did not serve time in prison because he was granted bail while he appealed the decision in court. Although he did not go to prison, Ali suffered greatly for his decision not to enlist. He was stripped of his World Heavyweight title and lost millions of dollars in earnings because he was banned from fighting.



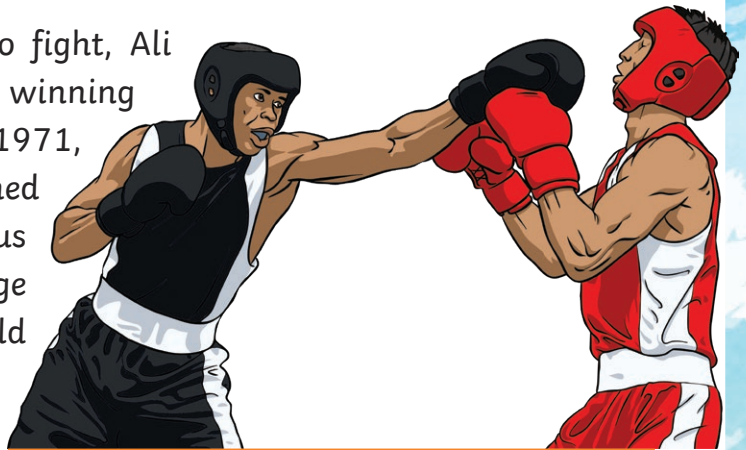
In addition to the court punishments, Ali was also punished by the press through bad publicity. Many Americans supported the Vietnam War at that time; Ali was criticised for not fighting and he became very

Famous Conscientious Objectors: Muhammad Ali

unpopular. He was called a disgrace in newspapers and on the TV and was told that his actions were hurting Americans who were fighting in Vietnam.

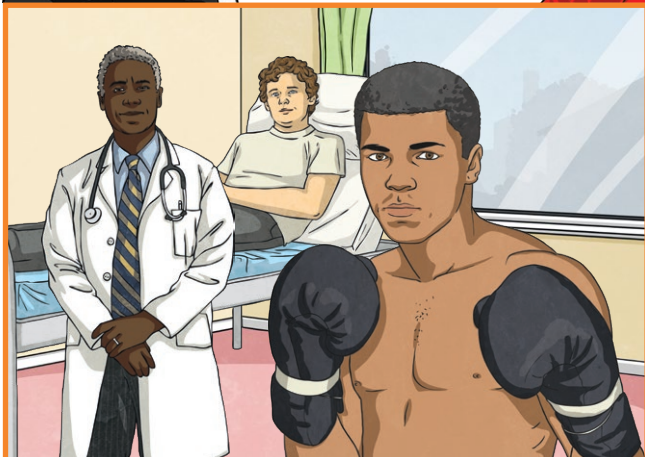
Ali, because he was banned from fighting, could not earn money from boxing matches. He earned money by giving lectures at colleges where he spoke about his belief in Islam, his decision to be a conscientious objector, and his experiences of racism. As public opinion turned against the Vietnam War, support for Ali returned.

After 43 months of being unable to fight, Ali returned to boxing in October 1970, winning his fight against Jerry Quarry. In 1971, the US Supreme Court overturned his draft conviction in a unanimous decision. Ali fought against George Foreman in 1974 to regain his World Heavyweight title.



Muhammed Ali is not only regarded as one of the greatest boxers of all time, he is also known for his commitment to charity work and human rights. Ali said that he wanted to be more than just a boxer and that he wanted to use his fame to help others.

Ali was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 1984 but continued with his charity and human rights work. Ali died in 2016, at the age of 74.



Muhammad Ali visiting sick fans in hospital

Questions

1. Join the boxes to show the year the events happened in Muhammad Ali's life.

1967

Ali was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

1970

Ali returned to boxing after his ban.

1974

Ali was called for draft in Vietnam.

1984

Ali regained his World Heavyweight title.

2. Why do you think Muhammad Ali changed his name?

3. Find and copy a word that means **media attention**.

4. Fill in the missing words.

Ali did not serve time in prison because he was _____ bail while he _____ the decision in court.

5. How did Ali earn money when he was not allowed to fight?

6. Why do you think Ali was punished so harshly for refusing to enlist in the army?

7. Ali was called a disgrace by the press for not fighting. Why do you think that the TV and newspapers choose not to tell Ali's side of the story?

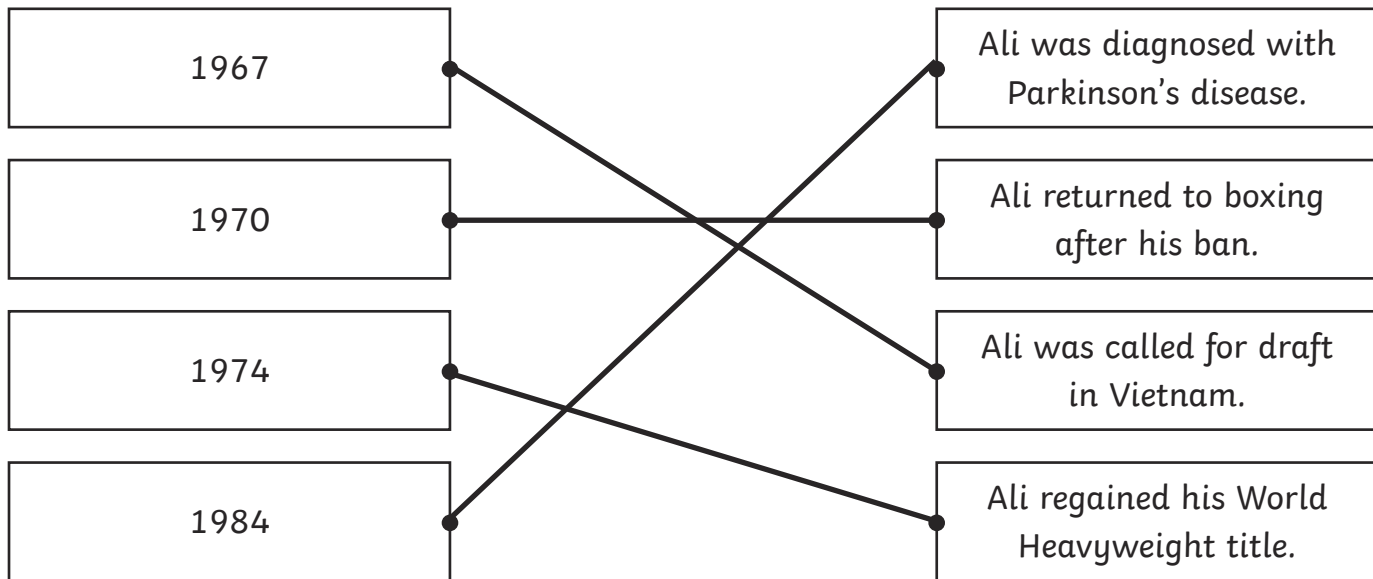
8. Why did people start to support Muhammad Ali again?

9. Do you think Ali was brave to be a conscientious objector? Give reasons for your answer.

10. Muhammad Ali did a lot of charity work after he retired from boxing. Can you think of reasons why celebrities should not give their support to specific charities?

Answers

1. Join the boxes to show the year the events happened in Muhammad Ali's life.



2. Why do you think Muhammad Ali changed his name?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Muhammad Ali changed his name to show his new belief and faith after converting to Islam

3. Find and copy a word that means media attention.

publicity

4. Fill in the missing words.

Ali did not serve time in prison because he was **granted** bail while he **appealed** the decision in court.

5. How did Ali earn money when he was not allowed to fight?

When he was not allowed to fight, Ali gave lectures at colleges to earn money.

6. Why do you think Ali was punished so harshly for refusing to enlist in the army?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Ali was punished harshly for refusing to enlist in the army so that the US government could show that it was not an easy choice to refuse and that there were consequences; he was made an example of. The army also needed more people than had volunteered.

7. Ali was called a disgrace by the press for not fighting. Why do you think that the TV and newspapers choose not to tell Ali's side of the story?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the TV and newspaper chose not to tell Ali's side of the story because many Americans supported the war at the time and it was a more interesting and popular a story that Ali would not support the war. I think it would also have damaged their profits.

8. Why did people start to support Muhammad Ali again?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think people started to support Muhammad Ali again because the American people started to turn against the war in Vietnam and could now understand why Ali did not support it.

9. Do you think Ali was brave to be a conscientious objector? Give reasons for your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Yes, I think he was brave to be a conscientious objector because he suffered because of his decision; People turned against him, he lost money and he lost his boxing title.

10. Muhammad Ali did a lot of charity work after he retired from boxing. Can you think of reasons why celebrities should not give their support to specific charities?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think celebrities should not give their support to specific charities because they cannot support every one of them and this is unfair. I also think that a celebrity supporting a charity could make it more popular with regular people and this could make others support a charity that isn't actually doing the best work for a cause.