

Mo Farah Fact Sheet

Name: Mohamed Muktar Jama Farah

Born: 23 March 1983 in Mogadishu, Somalia

Childhood

Although Mo was born in Somalia, he grew up in West London from the age of 8. He began running at school but he didn't always want a big career in athletics. He actually dreamt of being a car mechanic or an Arsenal football player! In his teens, he joined an athletics club when he realised himself that he had a special talent for long-distance running. He became a very successful junior athlete and won the European Junior 5000m title in 2001.

Achievements

In 2008, Mo went to the Beijing Olympic Games but unfortunately he did not make it to an Olympic final. For the next four years, Mo trained even harder so he could have another go at achieving his dream of becoming an Olympic champion. On the 4th August 2012, Mo's dream came true at the London Olympic Games. In front of his home fans in the Olympic Stadium, Mo won the 10,000 metre gold. On the same night, which people went on to call 'Super Saturday', two other gold medals were won for Great Britain by Jessica Ennis and Greg Rutherford. Just a week later, on the 11th August 2012, Mo also won the 5000 metres event. Mo is the only athlete in Olympic history to ever win the 5000/10,000m double on home soil. Mo famously celebrated his wins with his own dance pose called the 'Mobot'.

Life after the Olympics

In 2012, Mo was given a CBE, which is a special award from the Queen. In Teddington, West London (Mo's hometown), a post box was painted gold to commemorate his Olympic victories.

Mo still competes in international athletics and recently repeated his gold medal double at the 2015 Athletics World Championships. He also does a lot of charity work for The Mo Farah Foundation, which raises money for starving and diseased people in Mo's birthplace of Somalia. Every time anyone posts a YouTube video copying his 'Mobot' pose, Mo donates £2 to his charity...how very generous!

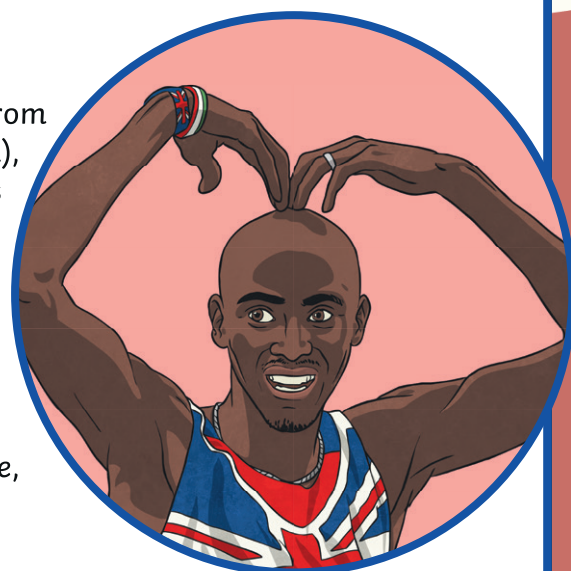
Amazing Fact!

Mo's secret training weapon is his underwater treadmill which he runs on while wearing scuba-diving equipment. He uses this machine three or four times a week when he's in competition training!

Olympic Games and Medals

2012 London Games:

2 gold medals (10,000 metres and 5000 metres)



Mo Farah Comprehension

Answer the following questions using full sentences that give as much detail as possible.

1. What were Mo's dream jobs when he was a child?

2. Where and when was Mo born?

3. What happened to Mo at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing?

4. Name the three GB athletes that won gold medals on 'Super Saturday'.

5. How did Mo celebrate his double Olympic gold medals?

6. I would use the adjective '**determined**' to describe Mo Farah's character. Can you finish this sentence with a reason why?

I think Mo is a determined person because...

7. Why do you think Mo's charity raises money for Somalia?

8. What strange piece of equipment does Mo have to help him train?

Mo Farah Comprehension

Answers

1. What were Mo's dream jobs when he was a child?

He wanted to become a mechanic or an Arsenal football player.

2. Where and when was Mo born?

He was born on 23 March 1983 in Mogadishu, Somalia.

3. What happened to Mo at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing?

In 2008, Mo went to the Beijing Olympic Games but unfortunately he did not make it to an Olympic final.

4. Name the three GB athletes that won gold medals on 'Super Saturday'.

On Super Saturday, 4th August 2012, Mo Farah, Jessica Ennis and Greg Rutherford all won gold medals for Team GB.

5. How did Mo celebrate his double Olympic gold medals?

Mo famously celebrated his wins with his own dance pose called the 'Mobot'.

6. I would use the adjective '**determined**' to describe Mo Farah's character. Can you finish this sentence with a reason why?

I think Mo is a determined person because...

Pupil's own response - possible references to the fact that he didn't give up after losing at the Beijing Games, he runs long distances, he's still competing in international athletics now or that he works hard to raise money for charity.

7. Why do you think Mo's charity raises money for Somalia?

Mo raises money for Somalia because many people there are dying of disease and starvation. He feels compelled to help the people in the country he was born.

8. What strange piece of equipment does Mo have to help him train?

Mo's secret training weapon is his underwater treadmill which he runs on while wearing scuba-diving equipment.