



Captain Tom Has Received a Knighthood

What is a knighthood?

- A knighthood is a special honour given to people by The Queen.
- After being knighted, the titles 'Sir' and 'Dame' may be used.

Captain Tom, the 100-year-old fundraising Second World War veteran, has received a knighthood. The Queen confirmed the honour in May. He will now be known as Captain Sir Tom Moore.

Captain Tom said in a message on social media, "I am absolutely overwhelmed. Never for one moment could I have imagined I would be awarded with such a great honour."

He was recommended for a knighthood by Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Mr Johnson described Tom as being a "beacon of light" and "a national treasure" for his fundraising for the NHS.

Prince William and Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, have also praised him for being a "one-man fundraising machine".

But what is a knighthood? A knighthood is given by The Queen to people who have made exceptional contributions to society. The honour first started in the middle ages.

During a special ceremony, The Queen touches the shoulders of a person with a sword. After being knighted, the titles 'Sir' and 'Dame' may be used.

Famous knights and dames include Sir Andy Murray, a tennis player, and Dame Emma Thompson, an actor who has appeared in many films.

Captain Tom hit the attention of the world's media when he completed 100 times laps of his



Illustration: Tom Moore has been knighted.

garden to raise money for the NHS Charities Together. He wanted to finish the challenge before his 100th birthday.

Captain Tom wanted to show support for NHS workers as they help those affected by COVID-19.

At first, Captain Tom set himself the target of raising £1000. However, he inspired so many people that this target was soon overtaken! He has now raised almost £33 million for charity.

After completing the 100 laps of his garden, he released a song called 'You'll Never Walk Alone'. It reached number 1 in the UK charts.

On his 100th birthday, on 30th April, he received over 100 000 birthday cards!

Glossary

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|--------------------|---|
| fundraising | Raise money for charity. |
| veteran | An ex-member of the armed forces. |
| honour | A title of respect given to someone, such as 'Sir' or 'Dame'. |
| NHS | National Health Service, responsible for UK healthcare. |

Questions

1. "I am absolutely overwhelmed."

Tick the word that is closest in meaning to 'overwhelmed'.

- interested
- stunned
- tense
- uncertain

2. Why has Captain Tom received a knighthood?

3. What do you think the author means by the phrase 'hit the attention of the world's media'?

4. Why do you think Captain Tom wanted to complete 100 laps of his garden?

5. Lots of people have been inspired by Captain Tom. Find and copy two pieces of evidence that show this.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

6. Write a summary of the story in 15 words or fewer.

Answers

1. "I am absolutely overwhelmed."

Tick the word that is closest in meaning to 'overwhelmed'.

- interested
 stunned
 tense
 uncertain

2. Why has Captain Tom received a knighthood?

Accept an answer which refers to Captain Tom's fundraising efforts, e.g. Captain Tom received a knighthood for raising almost £33 million for the NHS.

3. What do you think the author means by the phrase 'hit the attention of the world's media'?

Accept an answer which refers to Captain Tom becoming famous or in the news, e.g. I think that 'hit the attention of the world's media' means that Captain Tom was in the news a lot.

4. Why do you think Captain Tom wanted to complete 100 laps of his garden?

Accept any answer which refers to the 100 laps being connected to his 100th birthday, e.g. He did 100 laps because he was about to have his 100th birthday.

5. Lots of people have been inspired by Captain Tom. Find and copy two pieces of evidence that show this.

Accept any two pieces of evidence that refer to the following: he has raised almost £30 million; he has a number 1 song in the UK charts; he has received over 100 000 birthday cards.

6. Write a summary of the story in 15 words or fewer.

Accept any reasonable summary of the story that is 15 words or fewer, e.g. Captain Tom has received a knighthood for raising money for the NHS.