

Lewis Hamilton

Lewis Hamilton is a talented British racing driver who has won the Formula One World Championship title six times. He is famous for being the most successful British racing driver in history. He is also the first black racing driver in Formula One (F1).



His Early Life

Lewis Hamilton was born on 7th January 1985. He grew up on a council estate in Stevenage, England. His father is black British and his mother is white British. They divorced when he was two years old.

When he was six years old, Lewis's father bought him a radio-controlled car. His passion for racing had begun! By the time he was eight, Lewis was driving and winning go-kart races. At age ten, he met the boss of the McLaren F1 team and promised him that he would be driving his cars someday. By age fifteen, Lewis was crowned the Karting World Number One and was signed to McLaren's Young Driver Support Programme.

Formula One

It was in 2006 when McLaren announced that rookie Hamilton would be joining the team, just as Hamilton had promised as a child!

Hamilton's first F1 race was in Australia in 2007, where he finished third. His first ever home win came on 6th July 2008, when he won the British Grand Prix. Later that year, he became the F1 World Champion, at the age of 23. Not only was he the first British driver to win a World

Championship since Damon Hill in 1996, but he was the first ever black driver to win.

In 2013, he moved to Mercedes and replaced Michael Schumacher, who was retiring. His partner was Nico Rosberg, an old rival from his childhood karting days.

In 2017, Hamilton became the most successful British F1 driver in history after winning his 4th championship. He is still racing in 2019.

Did You Know...?

Hamilton's father's family live on the island of Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean.



Questions

- Who is Lewis Hamilton? Tick **two**.
 - He is a British Formula One driver.
 - He is the boss of the McLaren Formula One team.
 - He is the first ever black Formula One racing driver.
- What happened to Lewis Hamilton when he was six that started his interest in racing?

- Look at the **His Early Life** section. Write numbers from 1 to 5 to put the statements in the correct order.

| Statement | Number |
|---|--------|
| He was given a radio-controlled car. | |
| His parents divorced. | |
| He spoke with the McLaren F1 team boss. | |
| He was born in Stevenage. | |
| He joined the McLaren Young Driver Support Programme. | |

- Look at the **Formula One** section.
Find and **copy** a word which means that Hamilton was a new team member.

- Fill in the missing words.
Not only was he the first _____ driver to win a _____ Championship since Damon Hill in _____, but he was the first ever black driver to win.
- Do you think Lewis Hamilton wanted to be a racing driver when he was little? Explain how you know.
