

PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

Teacher Activity Guide



CORNERBACK & RETURNER DEION SANDERS - HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2011

ATLANTA FALCONS

Team History



The date of June 30, 1965 will always be remembered as a most significant day in Atlanta's sports history. That day, the National Football League awarded its 15th franchise to the city, marking an end to a long struggle by the Georgia capital city to obtain a professional football team. The franchise was awarded to 41-year-old Rankin M. Smith, a successful life insurance executive, for \$8.5 million.

One of Smith's first orders of business was to announce a contest to provide a nickname for the new team. The name "Falcons" was suggested by many, but a school teacher from Griffin, Ga. was declared the winner. "The Falcon is proud and dignified," she wrote, "with great courage and fight. It never drops its prey. It is deadly and has a great sporting tradition."

Excited Georgia fans showed their enthusiasm and appreciation by buying season tickets in record numbers. By Christmas Eve, when the Falcons cut off a brief 54-day ticket sale requiring almost no promotion, an NFL record had been established for a new team with the sale of 45,000 season tickets. Minnesota was the previous record-holder with 26,000 sales in 1961.

Midway through the ticket campaign, the Falcons participated in their first NFL draft on November 27, 1965. Their first pick was an Outland Trophy-winning linebacker from the University of Texas, Tommy Nobis. Nobis was also drafted by Houston of the American Football League but he signed a Falcons contract on December 14.

Norb Hecker, an assistant on Vince Lombardi's Green Bay Packers staff, was chosen as the Falcons' first head coach. The new Falcons lost their first nine games before defeating the New York Giants 27-16 on November 20. They finished with three wins, tying an expansion team first-season record up to that time.

In 1971, the Falcons recorded their first winning season (7-6-1) under fiery Coach Norm Van Brocklin. In 1973, they finished with a 9-5 mark, a new team high. The 1977 team under new coach Leeman Bennett established an NFL team mark that still stands by allowing just 129 total points in a 14-game season. Bennett then led the Falcons to the playoffs three times in a five-year span between 1978 and 1982. In 1980, the Falcons won the NFC Western Division title with a club-record 12 wins and six Pro Bowl stars, including quarterback Steve Bartkowski and running back William Andrews. In addition to Bartkowski, Nobis and Andrews, such stars as defensive end Claude Humphrey, center Jeff Van Note, running back Gerald Riggs and Billy "White Shoes" Johnson made things interesting for loyal Falcons fans.

Atlanta was one of the first teams to have a year-round practice facility, opening a complex in 1978 in suburban Suwanee. The Falcons closed out their 26-year era at Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium in 1991 with an 11-win season, second most in team history. The next year, the team moved into the luxurious Georgia Dome, recognized as one of the finest indoor stadiums.

In 1998, the Falcons recorded their most successful season in franchise history. The team won the NFC West with a 14-2 record and marched through the playoffs to claim the NFC championship and earned a trip to Super Bowl XXXIII. The Falcons were back in the national spotlight during the 2016-2017 season - winning the NFC Championship and making it to Super Bowl LI behind the NFL's MVP Matt Ryan. Now, the team looks to new Head Coach Raheem Morris and QB Michael Penix Jr. to lead them back to the playoffs in 2026.



ATLANTA FALCONS

Canton, Ohio and the National Football League

Each year, approximately 250,000 fans from all over the world visit the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. The museum's guest register reveals that in a year's time, visitors come from all fifty states and from sixty to seventy foreign countries.

Many wonder why the Hall of Fame is located in this small northeast Ohio city. Often, museums are built in locations that have historical significance to their subject matter. The Pro Football Hall of Fame is no exception. Canton's ties to pro football began long before the Hall of Fame was built in 1963. On September 17, 1920, a meeting was held in an automobile showroom in downtown Canton. It was at this time that the American Professional Football Association was formed. Two years later, the league changed its name to the National Football League.

Today, fans follow teams like the Dallas Cowboys, San Francisco 49ers, and the Miami Dolphins. But, in 1920, none of those teams existed. Rather, the NFL had teams like the Columbus Panhandles, Dayton Triangles, Rochester Jeffersons, and the Canton Bulldogs.

The Canton Bulldogs were the first real pro football powerhouse. They won the NFL title in 1922 and 1923 making them the league's first two-time champion.

They were a strong team even before the NFL began because of their star player Jim Thorpe. Thorpe, a Native American Indian, was a tremendous athlete. Not only did he play pro football but he played pro baseball and won two gold medals in the 1912 Olympic Games. Even today, he is considered to be one of the world's greatest athletes of all time.

While the Bulldogs are no longer around, pro football remembers its early days in Canton, Ohio. Visitors, young and old, enjoy the story of pro football's history in the city where the NFL began!



The Legendary Jim Thorpe

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Who Was Jim Thorpe?



It seems that whenever stories are written about an all-time pro football great, Jim Thorpe's name comes up. Jim Thorpe was born in a one-room cabin in Prague, Oklahoma, on May 28, 1888. Though he had some Irish and French blood, he was mostly of Sac and Fox Indian heritage. In fact, his Indian name was Wa-Tho-Huk, which means Bright Path.

Though football was his first love, he gained his greatest fame as a track star, winning the decathlon and pentathlon events in the 1912 Olympics, held in Stockholm, Sweden. King Gustav V of Sweden told Thorpe as he presented him with his medals, "Sir, you are the greatest athlete in the world." But soon afterward, Thorpe was stripped of his records and medals when it was learned that he had played minor league baseball for money in 1911. In 1984 the Olympic Committee decided that this was an unfair interpretation of the then Olympic rules and restored his records and returned his medals to his family.

In 1915, Thorpe's great abilities and fame led Jack Cusack to offer him \$250 a game to play football for the Canton Bulldogs. While that may not sound like much, it was twice as much as most players were making back then. Even Cusack's friends warned him that he was paying Thorpe too much. Just the same, Thorpe was everything Cusack had hoped he would be -- a great player and a gate attraction. After missing the first two games of the 1916 season because he was playing pro baseball for the New York Giants, Thorpe joined the Canton squad. With Jim playing halfback, the Bulldogs were unofficial World Champions in 1916, 1917 and 1919. (The Bulldogs' championships are said to be unofficial since no organized pro league existed at the time.)

Many old-timers who actually played against Thorpe claimed he was the toughest man ever to play the game. Legend says that Jim would drop-kick a field goal from the 50-yard line, then turn and kick another 50-yarder in the opposite direction with perfect results-just to show off. Others say he could punt a ball the length of the field. Both are probably exaggerations. In any case, there is no doubt that Thorpe was a superb athlete. All accounts suggest he could run with speed and bruising power. He could pass and catch passes with the best. He could kick with accuracy and strength. And, of course, as players did back then, he played defense too.

By the time the NFL was organized in 1920, the thirty-two-year-old Thorpe, who was already past his athletic prime, was unanimously voted the league's charter president. However, he managed to play eight NFL seasons with six different teams and his gate appeal continued. Though at times he sparkled like the Thorpe of old, he never really excelled as much in the NFL as he had in his earlier career. In 1928, at the age of forty he finally called it quits. In 1950, the nation's press honored Thorpe by naming him the most outstanding athlete of the first fifty years of the twentieth century. In 1963, he was elected a charter member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Source: Excerpt from The Official Pro Football Hall of Fame Answer Book by Joe Horrigan, Simon & Shuster Inc., 1990.

If you would like to know more about Jim Thorpe, a good book to read is Jim Thorpe by Bob Wheeler (University of Oklahoma Press, 1979).



Goals/Objectives:

Students will:

- Conduct research on issues and interests by generating ideas and questions and by posing problems. They gather, evaluate and synthesize data from a variety of sources (e.g., print and nonprint displays and artifacts) to communicate their discoveries.
- Use a variety of technological and informational resources (e.g., video, displays, databases) to gather and synthesize information and to create and communicate knowledge.
- Develop an understanding of and respect for diversity in language use, patterns and dialects across cultures, ethnic groups, geographic regions and social roles.
- Use spoken, written and visual language to accomplish their own purposes (e.g., for learning, enjoyment, persuasion and exchange of information).

Common Core Standards: RI- Key Ideas and Details, Integration of Knowledge and Ideas; W- Text Types and Purposes, Research to Build and Present Knowledge; SL- Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

Methods/Procedures:

- Students will read the biographical sketch on Deion Sanders (next page) as a class and discuss his role in history and the history of pro football.
- Students will compile a list of ten facts about Deion Sanders from his bio.
- Students would then be given an assignment to research any Falcons' player and gather ten facts or bits of information on them to share with the class. Students would be encouraged to access the Falcons' official website: AtlantaFalcons.com.
- Students will write up their information in paragraph form (like the Deion Sanders bio) and present the new facts and bits of information that they discovered about their chosen player.

UDL Examples

- Read all materials aloud to entire class
- Allow students to work in groups
- Allow students to create a poster or graphic with new facts and bits of information that they discovered about their chosen player

Materials:

- Deion Sanders biography
- ProFootballHOF.com

Assessment:

- Students will submit the informational essay/report on their chosen Falcons' player.
- Students will deliver a formal presentation on their chosen player that will demonstrate a clear and distinctive perspective on the subject chosen and conveys relevant information and descriptive details.

ATLANTA FALCONS

Deion Sanders



The Atlanta Falcons drafted Deion Sanders in the first round, fifth player overall, out of Florida State in the 1989 NFL Draft. His stardom in the NFL was apparent from his very first game when he returned a punt 68 yards for a touchdown in his NFL debut.



More of that spectacular play continued throughout his 14-season, 188-game career. Sanders who spent time with five different NFL teams scored a total of six touchdowns on punt returns, three TDs on kickoff returns, and returned nine interceptions for scores. The multi-faceted athlete also returned one fumble for TD and had 60 receptions for 784 yards and 3 TDs during his career with the Falcons (1989-1993), San Francisco 49ers (1994), Dallas Cowboys (1995-99), Washington Redskins (2000) and Baltimore Ravens (2004-05). In all, he recorded 53 career interceptions including five with the Ravens when he returned to the field after a three-year retirement.

A member of the NFL's All-Decade Team of the 1990s as both a cornerback and a punt returner, Sanders led the NFL in punt returns in 1998 with a 15.6 average. He also led the NFC in kickoffs in 1992 and interceptions in 1991 and 1993.

Despite his electrifying talents as a return man, Sanders was more widely regarded as a "shutdown corner" during his career. He was named first-team All-Pro nine times at cornerback in addition to receiving All-NFL acclaim by some media outlets as a kick returner in 1992 and as a punt returner in 1998. He was also elected to eight Pro Bowls during his career.

Sanders retired second all-time in interception return yardage (1,331) and tied for second for most interceptions returned for a touchdown in a career (9) and a season (3). His career-high 303 yards gained on interception returns with the 49ers in 1994 was third best ever in the NFL at the time of his retirement. He also returned three picks for touchdowns (74, 93, 90 yards) that season to become the first player ever to have two 90-yard interception returns for touchdowns in the same season. He was named the NFL's Defensive Player of the Year.

Sanders won two Super Bowls during his career. He started at right cornerback for the 49ers in their 49-26 victory over the San Diego Chargers in Super Bowl XXIX and at left cornerback in the Cowboys 27-17 win over the Pittsburgh Steelers in Super Bowl XXX.



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Tackling Football Math

Goals/Objectives:

Students will:

- Improve math skills by applying basic functions to the game of football.
- Learn basic football facts and game terms.
- Utilize statistics of NFL football players and teams for computing math problems.
- Research statistics of selected NFL football players and teams for use as alternative information in certain math problems.

Common Core Standards: Operations and Algebraic Thinking; Number Operations in Base Ten; Measurement and Data

Methods/Procedures:

- Students will complete the math worksheets provided on the following pages related to the game of football. They may work independently or with others. Feel free to make adaptations in players and teams to suit your students. Answers to the following worksheets are found in the back of this publication.
 - * Conversions in Football (CCS: Measurement and Data)
 - * Super Bowl Thunder (CCS: Number Operations in Base Ten; Measurement and Data)

UDL Examples

- Allow all students to use conversion charts

Materials:

- Pencil
- Scrap paper for working problems
- Calculators if permitted
- Worksheets

Assessment:

- Students will be assessed on accuracy of responses.

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Conversions in Football



Directions: Complete the following problems, be sure to show all of your work on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Heading into the 2026 NFL Season, Falcons RB Bijan Robinson has 3,910 career rushing yards. How many miles is that? *(Hint: 1 mile = 1,760 yards) _____
2. In 2014, Devin Hester returned a punt 62 yards, breaking the all-time career kick-return record and passing Deion Sanders in the record books. How many inches was that return? _____
3. Michael Penix Jr. passed for 1,982 yards in 2025. How many miles is that? _____ Round to the nearest tenth. *(Hint: 1 mile = 1,760 yards)
4. In 2025 Kyle Pitts Sr. led the Falcons in receiving with 928 yards. How many feet is that? _____
5. The Falcons have the ball on their own 25-yard line and they complete a 45-yard pass. They then lose 4 yards on the next play. What yard line are they now on? _____
6. Michael Penix Jr. threw a 54-yard pass. How many inches did he throw? _____ How many centimeters? _____ Hint: 1 inch = 2.54 centimeters
7. A football field measures 100 yards from goal line to goal line. A field is $53 \frac{1}{3}$ yards wide. Convert these measurements to feet. _____
8. If an NFL player weighs 303 pounds. How much does he weigh in ounces? _____
9. A game normally lasts 60 minutes. During a 17-game season, how many total minutes does one team play? _____
10. There are seven officials on the field for every NFL game. If 16 games are played each week, what is the total number of officials officiating throughout the NFL each week? _____



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Super Bowl Thunder

Directions: Answer the following questions using the Atlanta Falcons' roster on the following page.

1. Who was the oldest player on the team?
2. What number was Devonta Freeman?
3. How many wide receivers (WR) were there?
4. How many players had 10 or more years of NFL experience?
5. How many quarterbacks (QB) were listed?
6. Who was the only player to attend University of Indiana?
7. Who was the heaviest player on the team?
8. Who was the lightest player on the team?
9. What position did number 81 play?
10. Add up the total weight of all the running backs (RB).

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Super Bowl Thunder



Atlanta Falcons Super Bowl LI Roster

#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
23	Alford, Robert	CB	5'10"	186	27	4	Southeastern Louisiana
37	Allen, Ricardo	S	5'9"	186	24	2	Purdue
95	Babineaux, Jonathan	DT	6'2"	300	34	12	Iowa
44	Beasley Jr., Vic	LB	6'3"	246	24	2	Clemson
5	Bosher, Matt	P	6'0"	208	28	6	Miami (FL)
3	Bryant, Matt	K	5'9"	203	41	15	Baylor
59	Campbell, De'Vondre	LB	6'3"	234	23	R	Minnesota
65	Chester, Chris	G	6'3"	303	33	11	Oklahoma
26	Coleman, Tevin	RB	6'1"	210	23	2	Indiana
32	Collins, Jalen	CB	6'1"	203	23	2	LSU
76	Compton, Tom	T	6'5"	308	27	4	South Dakota
42	DiMarco, Patrick	RB	6'1"	234	27	5	South Carolina
24	Freeman, Devonta	RB	5'8"	206	24	3	Florida State
93	Freeney, Dwight	DE	6'1"	268	36	15	Syracuse
18	Gabriel, Taylor	WR	5'8"	165	25	3	Abilene Christian
63	Garland, Ben	G	6'5"	308	28	3	Air Force
38	Goldson, Dashon	S	6'2"	200	31	9	Washington
29	Goodwin, C.J.	CB	6'4"	220	26	1	California (PA)
77	Hageman, Ra'Shede	DT	6'6"	318	26	3	Minnesota
16	Hardy, Justin	WR	5'10"	192	24	2	East Carolina
47	Harris, Josh	LB	6'1"	224	27	5	Auburn
81	Hooper, Austin	TE	6'3"	254	21	R	Stanford
94	Jackson, Tyson	DE	6'4"	296	30	8	LSU
97	Jarrett, Grady	DT	6'0"	305	23	2	Clemson
45	Jones, Deion	LB	6'1"	222	21	R	LSU
11	Jones, Julio	WR	6'3"	220	27	6	Alabama
52	Keyes, Josh	LB	6'2"	223	23	2	Boston College
67	Levitte, Andy	G	6'2"	303	30	8	Oregon State
51	Mack, Alex	C	6'4"	311	30	8	California
70	Matthews, Jake	T	6'5"	309	24	3	Texas A&M
22	Neal, Keanu	S	6'0"	211	21	R	Florida
20	Neasman, Sharrod	S	5'11"	213	24	R	Florida Atlantic
30	Olatoye, Deji	CB	6'1"	205	25	2	North Carolina A&T
82	Perkins, Joshua	TE	6'3"	223	23	R	Washington
34	Poole, Brian	CB	5'9"	213	23	R	Florida
50	Reed, Brooks	DE	6'3"	254	29	6	Arizona
53	Reynolds, LaRoy	LB	6'1"	240	25	4	Virginia
19	Robinson, Aldrick	WR	5'10"	187	27	4	Southern Methodist
2	Ryan, Matt	QB	6'4"	217	31	9	Boston College
12	Sanu, Mohamed	WR	6'2"	210	26	5	Rutgers
8	Schaub, Matt	QB	6'6"	245	35	13	Virginia
73	Schraeder, Ryan	T	6'7"	300	28	4	Valdosta State
71	Schweitzer, Wes	G	6'4"	300	22	R	San Jose State
86	Tialavea, D.J.	TE	6'4"	260	25	3	Utah State
80	Toilolo, Levine	TE	6'8"	265	25	4	Stanford
91	Upshaw, Courtney	LB	6'2"	272	26	5	Alabama
92	Vellano, Joe	DT	6'2"	300	27	2	Maryland
28	Ward, Terron	RB	5'7"	201	24	2	Oregon State
14	Weems, Eric	WR	5'9"	195	31	10	Bethune-Cookman
41	Wheeler, Philip	LB	6'2"	245	31	9	Georgia Tech
15	Williams, Nick	WR	5'10"	184	25	2	Connecticut
55	Worilow, Paul	LB	6'0"	230	26	4	Delaware
33	Wreh-Wilson, Blidi	CB	6'1"	198	26	4	Connecticut

Source: Super
Bowl LI Game
Program



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How Much Can Be Recycled?

Goals/Objectives:

Students will:

- Explain how technology influences the quality of life.
- Discuss how decisions about the use of products can result in desirable or undesirable consequences.
- Use examples to predict and analyze.
- Recognize that science can only answer some questions and technology can only solve some human problems.
- Describe examples of scientific advances and emerging technologies and how they impact society.

National Standards: Science: 5-Science and Technology

Methods/Procedures:

- The students and teacher will compile a list of objects that accumulate from fans, players and workers at any NFL game.
- Students gather, if possible, concrete examples of listed items.
- Students determine which listed objects can be recycled.
- Through letters, calls, emails, and possibly personally, determine which stadiums recycle and what items they recycle.
- After compiling all three lists, using a mathematical formula, including amount of each product sold, students determine the weight of each recyclable item/team's game and or season through extrapolation.

UDL Examples

- Encourage all students to share their personal experiences with the Atlanta Falcons.
- Discuss how the team has impacted the local community.
- Allow students to work with a partner and use technology to compile their lists.

Materials:

- Students and teacher created item list
- ProFootballHOF.com
- Scales for weighing objects

Assessment:

- Student created tables of items sold, recyclable items, items recycled and total poundage.
- Students will deliver a formal presentation on their findings.
- Teacher posts results and student findings (charts).

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How Much Can Be Recycled?



Mercedes-Benz Stadium

Items Sold	Item A	Item B	Item C	Item D
Game 1	Total Weight:	Total Weight:	Total Weight:	Total Weight:
Game 2	Total Weight:	Total Weight:	Total Weight:	Total Weight:
Game 3	Total Weight:	Total Weight:	Total Weight:	Total Weight:

Students may add items, delete items, add games, delete games depending on time constraints.



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From Humble Beginnings: The Story of the Falcons

Goals/Objectives:

Students will:

- Understand the beginnings of football as we know it today.

National Standards: U.S. History: 11 - Era 7: The Emergence of Modern America (1890-1930); 12 - Era 8: The Great Depression and World War II (1929-1945); 13 - Era 9: Postwar United States (1945 to early 1970's); 14 - Era 10: Contemporary United States (1968 to the Present)

Methods/Procedures:

- Students will visit the Atlanta Falcons website: AtlantaFalcons.com and the Pro Football Hall of Fame's website: ProFootballHOF.com. A tour through these websites informs students how the Falcons began, who were the early superstars, and who helped the Falcons become what they are today. Students will take notes.
- If the class can take a field trip to Mercedes-Benz Stadium, students should take notes as they tour.
- Students will complete a one page report on the history of the Atlanta Falcons from the research gathered.
- Students will then present this information (first game, first player drafted, etc.) to the class.

UDL Examples

- Allow students to create a poster, infographic, or digital presentation instead of a written report

Materials:

- Access to the Internet
- AtlantaFalcons.com
- ProFootballHOF.com
- Falcons History on page 1.

Assessment:

- Students will be able to verbally share with others more about the rich history of the Atlanta Falcons.

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Falcons' Team Travel



Goals/Objectives:

Students will:

- Improve geography skills using football team facts and locations.
- Use map skills with football facts.
- Explore data from NFL players and teams.

National Standards: Geography: 2-Places and Regions; 5-Environment and Society

Methods/Procedures:

- Have students complete the Falcons' Team Travel worksheet

UDL Examples

- Read and describe all facts and worksheets to all students

Materials:

- Worksheet: Falcons' Team Travel
- Maps, atlas, online resources
- 2026 Atlanta Falcons' Schedule
- Writing utensils
- Paper or posterboard
- Pushpins and string

Assessment:

- Students will be assessed on accuracy of responses to worksheet: Falcons' Team Travel



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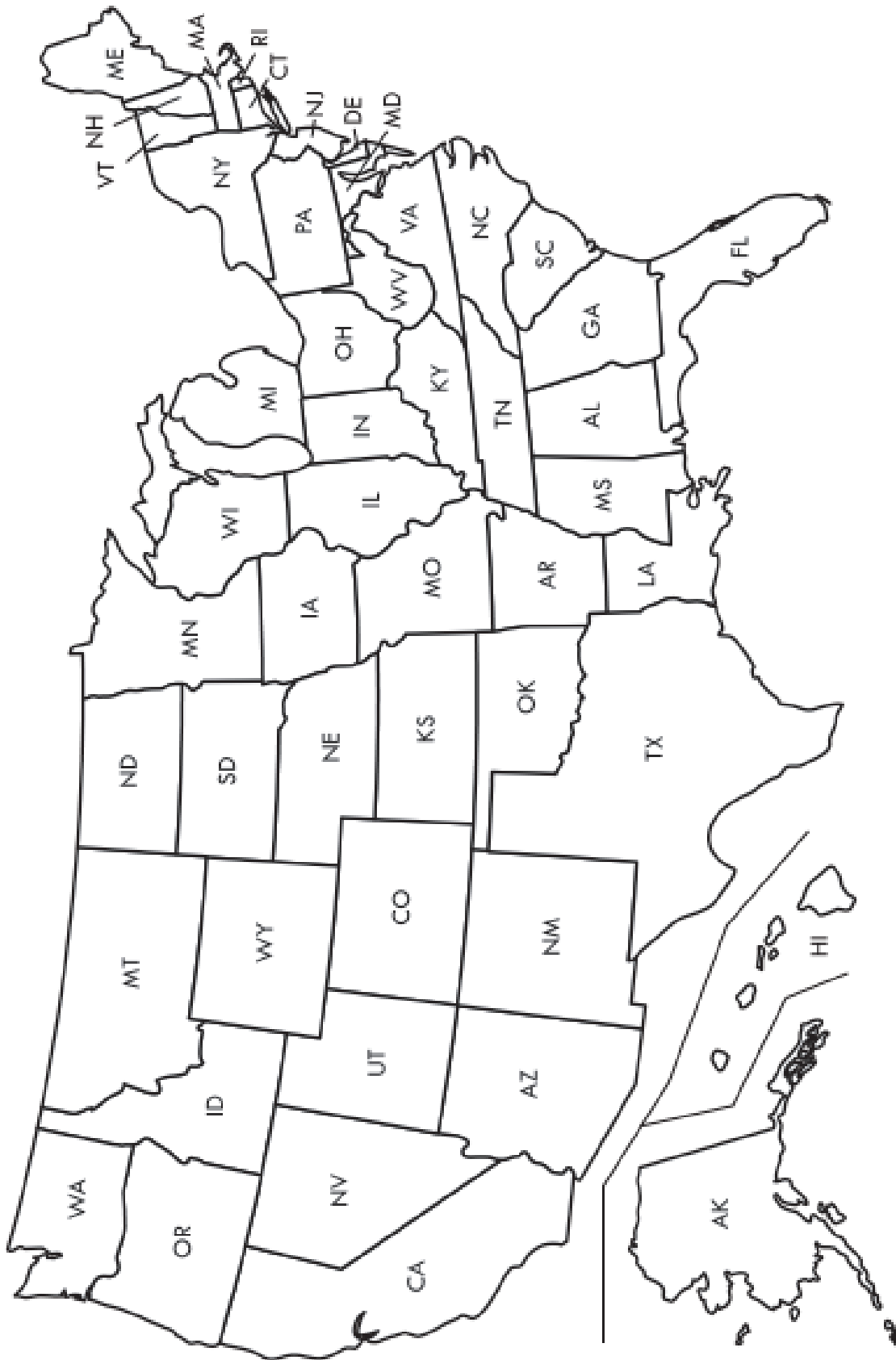
Falcons' Team Travel

Directions: Using a blank United States map (next page) and a 2026 NFL schedule complete the following activities

1. Label each individual state.
2. Label each NFL team in its correct city. On a separate piece of paper, list those states which do not have a NFL team.
3. Secure the map to a piece of cardboard to push pins through. Locate Atlanta, GA and mark it by attaching a string to a pin and placing the pin on Atlanta, GA.
4. Refer to a copy of the team's schedule for the current NFL season (AtlantaFalcons.com). Using the pins and string, locate and mark your team's away games. How many away games do they play?
5. Determine and keep track of the direction your team traveled to play their away games.
6. Using an online map, determine how many miles the team traveled to each of their away games. How many total miles did the team travel throughout the season?
7. Determine if Atlanta, GA is in a different time zone than Canton, OH. What is the time difference? If the starting time of a game is 4:00 p.m. in Canton OH, what time is the game starting in your Atlanta, GA?
8. Keep a log of your team's win-loss record for the season plus the number of points they have scored during each game.
9. Did your team win more home or away games?
10. How many miles is it from Atlanta, GA to Inglewood, CA, site of Super Bowl LXI?

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Falcons' Team Travel





ATLANTA FALCONS

Career Exploration

Goals/Objectives:

Students will:

- Identify NFL careers.
- Conduct an exploratory interview to get an insider's view of a particular career.
- Investigate career opportunities that reflect their interests, abilities, and personality.
- Utilize various sources of career information.

National Standards: FACS: 1 - Career, Community, and Family Connections

Methods/Procedures:

- Have students complete the following career worksheets and activities provided on the following pages:
 - * Careers with the Falcons
 - * Falcons Career Matching
 - * Falcons Career Future

UDL Examples

- Read all worksheets aloud to all students
- Allow students to work in pairs to complete the worksheets

Materials:

- Career worksheets and activity descriptions
- Career reference books including:
 - * Dictionary of Occupational Titles
 - * Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH)
 - * Guide for Occupational Exploration
 - * Occupational Outlook Quarterly
- Computer program "Ohio Career Information System (OCIS)"
- Internet access to career/job/vocation sites (i.e. <http://stats.bls.gov>)

Assessment:

- Students will be assessed on performance and accuracy of responses.

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Careers with the Falcons



Name: _____

There are hundreds of jobs in and around the Falcons in addition to being an athlete. See if you can think of one job for each letter in the alphabet.

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____
- E. _____
- F. _____
- G. _____
- H. _____
- I. _____
- J. _____
- K. _____
- L. _____
- M. _____
- N. _____
- O. _____
- P. _____
- Q. _____
- R. _____
- S. _____
- T. _____
- U. _____
- V. _____
- W. _____
- X. _____
- Y. _____
- Z. _____



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Falcons Career Matching

Name: _____

Directions: Match the careers on the left with the correct definition on the right:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| _____ Players Agent | A. Good with computers and networking. Oversee all technology applications for teams. |
| _____ Game Official | B. Requires a keen eye, fast reflexes, stamina, self-control, and knowledge of rules and ability to make quick and correct decisions. |
| _____ Sports Photographer | C. Has a strong science background with an emphasis on anatomy and physical therapy for athletes. |
| _____ Sports Psychologist | D. Makes sure the stadiums and arenas are operable and safe for both players and fans. |
| _____ Facilities Manager | E. Participates in contract negotiations, arranges personal appearances and sets up endorsements for commercial products. |
| _____ Director of IT | F. Advises athletes on how to eat to perform their best. |
| _____ Official Statistician | G. Expert in mathematics, bookkeeping, statistics and operating a computer. |
| _____ Scout | H. Artist who uses a camera to capture the single action of an individual's successes as well as defeats. |
| _____ Athletic Trainer | I. Evaluates potential players as well as next week's opponents. |
| _____ Sports Nutritionist | J. Helps athletes cope with pressure. |

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Falcons Career Future



Name: _____

The NFL can offer a ticket to fame and fortune. However, only a small percentage of people actually become professional athletes. Even those who do must some day retire and begin new careers. Education is the key to the future.

Think about the types of NFL career possibilities that exist for a person with your interests, abilities, and personality. Project yourself into the future and choose one occupation that interests you. Answer the following questions using any resources available (parents, relatives, career mentors, teachers, guidance counselors, Internet and printed material).

- What education and training would I need?
- What skills and aptitude should I have?
- Is there an age requirement? If so, what is it?
- What would my work environment be like?
- What hours would I spend on the job?
- What is the starting salary?
- What are the opportunities for advancement in this line of work?
- What are the benefits of the career?
- What is the dress code?
- What specific duties would I perform?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of the job?

Now that you know more about the career, is it still something you would like to pursue? Why or why not?



ATLANTA FALCONS

Falcons Jersey Design

Goals/Objectives:

Students will:

- Create an original frontal design for a jersey, employing color choices, fabric/clothing details and lettering design. This lesson focuses on use of contrast, center of interest and balance.

National Standards: Visual Arts: 1-Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes

Methods/Procedures:

- Fold drawing paper in half, short sides together, to create a center line. This line will be used as guide when drawing the neckline and number.
- Using pencil and ruler, divide the paper vertically into fourths, using very light guidelines. These lines represent approximate areas where sleeves are sewn onto the sides of the body.
- Decide on the thickness of sleeves, drawing them to extend to the outside edges of the paper.
- Sketch the neckline – standard jerseys usually have v-necks, but use another shape if you like.
- Add detailing – clothing that must endure the rigors of a contact sport usually has double stitching for strength. This can be shown at the sleeves, bottom and any other area you choose.
- Determine a color pattern – borrow colors from the falcons or create your own combinations. No more than two or three colors are necessary. Highlights of black and white are often used on jerseys in conjunction with one or two other colors. Use your color pattern to create bands on the sleeves, neckline and other areas as desired. Colors should have good contrast that allows the design to be visible from a distance, especially the number(s).
- Use the fold line to help you center the number you chose. Examples of block letters are shown on the accompanying illustration, but be as creative as you'd like. Jersey numbers are often "shaded" with a second colors. Frequently, smaller numbers are sewn to the shoulders. From this viewpoint, only part of the shoulder numbers would be visible.
- Add a tag inside the neckline to show the size. Jerseys often have outside tags on the lower portion of the body that show the manufacturer's name. This would be an ideal area to sign your name or create a company with your initials. Add any other detail you would like.
- If desired, cut out your jersey and mount on a contrasting color.

UDL Examples

- Allow students to work with a partner
- Allow students to use technology to create/draw a jersey design

Materials:

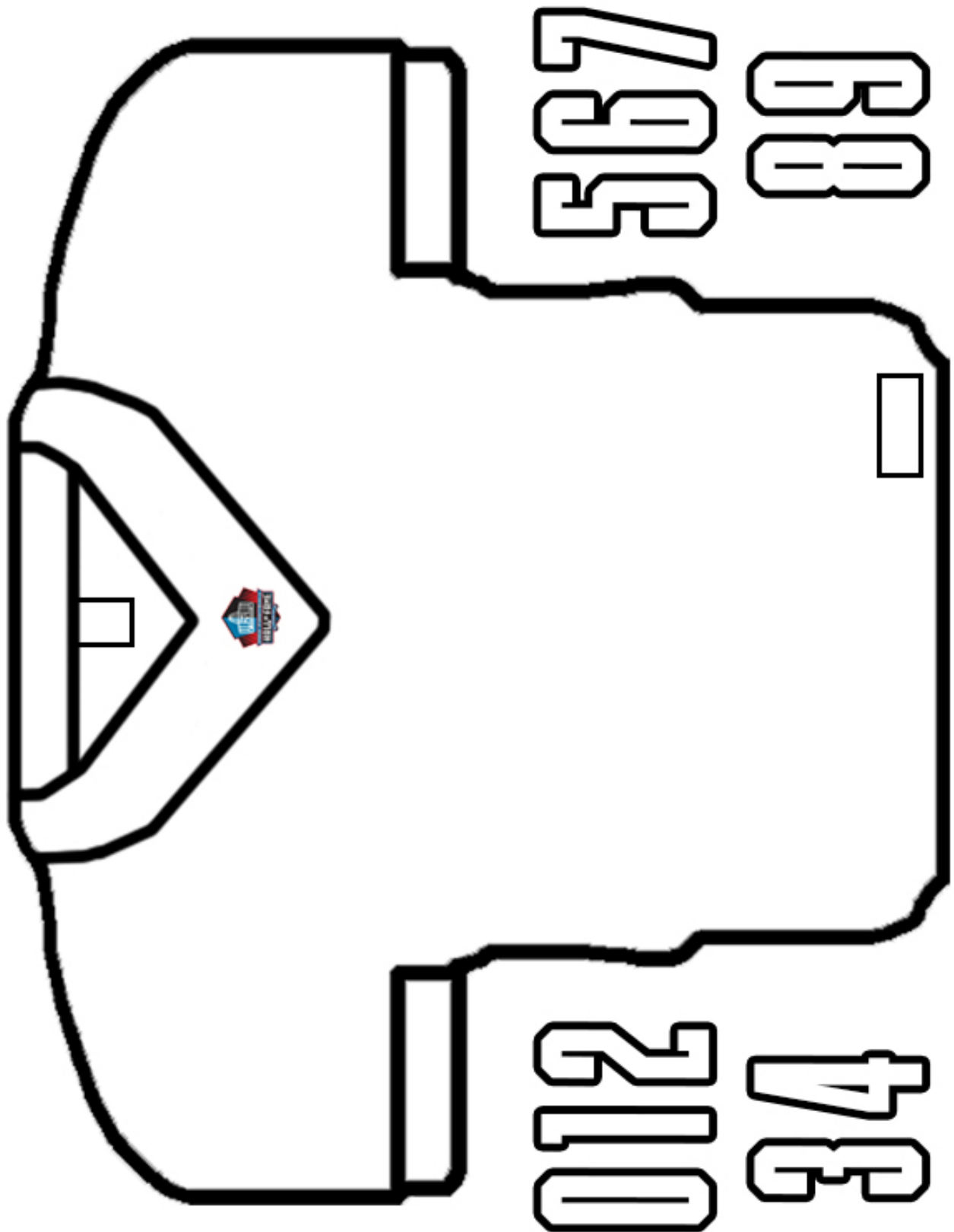
- White or manila drawing paper, 12" x 18" or 9" x 12"
- Drawing pencil/eraser
- Ruler or straightedge
- Colored pencils, markers, crayons or other coloring media

Assessment:

- Ask the student to write an advertisement for his/her jersey, describing the type of fabric that would be used, why the color choices are successful, the durability of the shirt, other details that were used, and the approximate price of the shirt.

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Falcons Jersey Design





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The Internet and Football

Goals/Objectives:

Students will:

- Identify the Internet as a viable source for information and research.
- Identify key phrases and words in searching the Internet for football related information.
- Identify various and reliable Internet sites.
- Identify main points of article.
- Effectively analyze Internet sites

National Standards: Technology: 2-Issues; 3-Technology Productivity Tools; 4-Technology Communication Tools; 5- Technology Research Tools, 6-Technology Problem Solving

Methods/Procedures:

- Students complete the worksheets provided on the following pages in this section concentrating on one activity at a time.
- Teachers are encouraged to adjust, adapt, and alter activities to suit class needs.
- Answers are located in the back of this publication.
 - * ProFootballHOF.com
 - * AtlantaFalcons.com
 - * Additional Internet Sites
- Students would be encouraged to access the Hall's official site: ProFootballHOF.com. On this site students can examine articles to analyze and discuss.
- Students can present the information gathered from the lessons to the class.

UDL Examples

- Read aloud all worksheets to the class
- Allow students to work in pairs

Materials:

- Internet Activity Sheets
- AtlantaFalcons.com
- ProFootballHOF.com
- Access to the school and/or public library as well as a computer center

Assessment:

- Students will be assessed based upon completed worksheets and/or presentations



Name: _____

Directions: After finding your way to the Pro Football Hall of Fame website, find the answers to the following questions.

1. What are the three reasons the Pro Football Hall of Fame is located in Canton, Ohio?
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____

2. In the "Football History" section, find one story about the 1980's. Summarize the article below.

3. Under "NFL History and Stats," list two players talked about in "African Americans in Pro Football."
 - D. _____
 - E. _____

4. Who were the enshrinees in the Class of 2026?
 - E. _____
 - F. _____
 - G. _____
 - H. _____
 - I. _____

5. A jersey number has been worn by more Hall of Famers (14) than any other number. Which number is it? _____



Name: _____

Directions: After accessing the website AtlantaFalcons.com, find the answers to the following questions:

1. Who founded the Atlanta Falcons?
2. In what year were the Atlanta Falcons founded?
3. How many games did the Falcons win in their first season?
4. The Falcons received their name from a school teacher, why did she think Falcons was a good name for a football team?
5. Name three Falcons inducted into the Falcons Ring of Honor.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
6. Find one article on the site. Summarize that article below.



The following websites can be accessed for additional information for your students.

www.usatoday.com

www.espn.com

www.cbssports.com

www.sportsillustrated.com

www.nfl.com/superbowl



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Even Bijan Robinson Had to Start Somewhere

Goals/Objectives:

Students will:

- Correlate the fitness concepts of strength, agility, flexibility, and endurance to basic yet specific forms of exercise.

National Standards: Physical Education: 2-Movement Concepts, Principles, Strategies, and Tactics; 3-Physical Activity; 4-Physical Fitness; 6-Values Physical Activity

Methods/Procedures:

- Students will be asked to discuss and list basic exercises that can be done to improve one's muscular strength, agility, flexibility, and muscular endurance.
- Basic Exercise Examples
 - * Muscular Strength Push-ups, Sit-ups (Few Repetition), Chin-ups, Pull-ups, Squat thrust, Bench dips
 - * Agility Line jumps (forward, backward, side to side, scissors), One Foot hop
 - * Flexibility Standing toe touch, Standing V stretch, Butterfly, Seated toe touch, Seated V stretch, Inverted hurdles stretch
 - * Endurance Push-ups, Sit-ups, Chin-ups, Squat thrust, Bench dips, Walking, Jogging (slow, medium or fast) Jump rope (Many Repetitions)

Materials:

- Notepad/paper and pencil/pen
- Blackboard or Dry mark board
- Access to computer

Assessment:

- Students will be assessed on their participation in activities.

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Answer Key



Conversions in Football

1. 2.2 miles
2. 2,232 inches
3. 1.1 miles
4. 2,784 feet
5. 34 yard line of opposing team
6. 1,944 inches, 4937.76 centimeters
7. 300 feet long, 160 feet wide
8. 5,800 ounces
9. 1,020 minutes
10. 112 officials

Super Bowl Thunder

1. Matt Bryant - 41
2. 24
3. 7
4. 6
5. 2
6. Tevin Coleman
7. Ra'Shede Hageman - 318 lbs.
8. Taylor Gabriel - 165 lbs.
9. Tight End
10. 851 lbs.

Careers with the Falcons

Possible Answers

- A = Agent
B = Broadcaster
C = Coach
D = Doctor
E = Equipment Manager
F = Field Judge
G = Groundskeeper
H = Head Linesman
I = Intern
J = Journalist
K = Kinesiologist
L = Lawyer
M = Mascot
N = Nutritionist
O = Owner
P = Photographer
Q = Quarterback Coach
R = Referee
S = Scout

- T = Trainer
U = Umpire
V = Vendor
W = Writer
X = X-Ray Technician
Y = Yoga Instructor
Z = Zeppelin Driver

Falcons Career Matching

- E- Players Agent
B- Game Official
H- Sports Photographer
J- Sports Psychologist
D- Facilities Manager
A- Sports Promoter
G- Official Statistician
I- Scout
C- Athletic Trainer
F- Sports Nutritionist

AtlantaFalcons.com

1. Rankin Smith
2. 1965
3. 3
4. "The falcon is proud and dignified, with great courage and fight. It never drops prey. It is deadly and has a great sporting tradition."
5. Answer varies
6. Student's choice

ProFootballHOF.com

1. A. The American Professional Football Association, was founded in Canton in 1920.
B. The Canton Bulldogs were an early day pro football power. First two-time champion of the NFL. Jim Thorpe played for Bulldogs.
C. Canton citizens launched a determined and organized campaign in the 1960's to earn the site.
2. Answer varies
3. Answer varies
4. Roger Craig, Luke Kuechly, Drew Brees, Larry Fitzgerald, Adam Vinatieri
5. 81

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