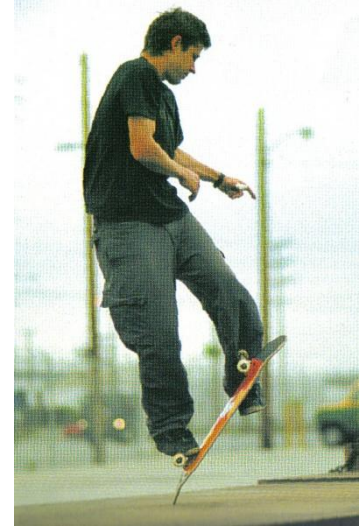


Name: _____ Date: _____

Rodney Mullen

How many skateboard tricks have you invented in your life? Oh, you did invent one? That's cool. Not as cool as about 30. Rodney Mullen did that. However, most people think Tony Hawk created the modern skateboard scene, but that's not the case. Rodney Mullen is underrated, but considering he pretty much invented all of the street tricks we commonly see today, it's easy to see why he has been so influential. His skateboarding style is comfortable and relaxed, making the incredible tricks he does look light and simple. Rodney Mullen is easily the best street skateboarder the world has yet seen.



Rodney Mullen was born in Gainesville, Florida on August 17th, 1966. He wanted to skateboard almost as soon as he could walk, but his dad (a doctor) wouldn't let him because he was scared Mullen would get hurt and fall in with the "wrong crowd." When Rodney Mullen was 10, his dad finally agreed to let him have a skateboard, on two conditions. The first time he was caught skateboarding without pads, or the first time he was injured, he would have to quit. Rodney Mullen managed to avoid any early injuries and became sponsored by the Inland Surf shop nine months after he started skating. Mullen won the first freestyle contest he entered in 1977 and at the age of 13, he turned professional with the legendary Powell-Peralta skateboard company.

Rodney Mullen kept winning freestyle skateboard contests, but his dad still wanted him to give up skateboarding and move on to something else. However, when skateboard magazines kept calling Mullen and companies started sending him money, his dad said he could keep skating. After 10 years skating freestyle and winning dozens of competitions became well known in the skateboarding industry. Mullen is responsible for the invention and development of the street ollie. The ollie is the ability to pop the board off of the ground and land back on the board while moving. It has been the most significant development in modern skateboarding. This invention alone would rank Mullen the most important skateboarder of all time.

Rodney Mullen began developing new street tricks and making skateboard videos. He also started World Industries Skateboards with Steve Rocco in 1992. In 2003 Mullen helped create another skateboard company called "Almost". Mullen's role at Almost includes research and development on new designs and technologies, including Tensor Trucks, along with experimental and composite deck constructions

To learn more about the history of skateboards, checkout this website: <http://skatessentials.com/>

Rodney Mullen Skateboarding Tricks Invented:

- Flatground Ollie
- Godzilla Rail Flip
- 540 Shove-it
- 50-50 Saran Wrap
- Helipops (360 Nollie)
- Gazelles
- No Handed 50-50 Kickflip
- Heelflip
- Double heelflips
- Ollie Impossible
- Sidewinders
- 360 Flip
- 360 pressure Flip
- Casper 360 Flip
- 50-50 Sidewinders
- One footed Ollie
- Backside 180 Flip
- Ollie Nosebones
- Ollie Fingerflip
- Airwalks
- Frontside Heelflip Shove-its
- Switchstance 360 Flips
- Helipop Heelflips
- Kickflip Underflip
- Casper Slides
- Half Flip Darkslide
- 540 double kickflip
- Caballerial impossible
- Half-cab kickflip underflip
- Handstand flips
- Rusty slides
- Kickflip

1. Why didn't Rodney Mullen's father want him skateboarding?

2. How many tricks has Rodney Mullen invented and which is the most significant?

3. Why is Rodney Mullen considered "underrated"?

4. Name two skateboard companies Rodney Mullen helped create:

5. Why do you think Rodney Mullen was so important for the sport of skateboarding?
