**CHESS FOR CHILDREN: A SMART MOVE**

**Summary**

The article is about the game of chess. It explores the achievements of various chess players and brings forth the fact that chess is not a game that is played only by adults. Many young boys and girls have shown their prowess in chess and won accolades for their ability to play the game. The article introduces us to Vishwanath Anand, who began to play at the age of five. It makes comparisons between Jose Raul Capablanca of Cuba and Sammy Reshevsky of Poland who began playing chess at the age of four.

We are told about other youngsters from India including Humpy, Pentyla Harikrishna, Parimarjan Negi and many others. The article ends by extolling the virtues of chess and promoting it as a game that is fit for children.

**Understanding the Text**

1. **Write TRUE or FALSE:**
2. Chess is a game for two people: **TRUE**
3. Chess can be played only by young children: **FALSE**
4. Anand’s mother’s name was Lightning kid: **FALSE**
5. Viswanathan Anand does not want other children to take up chess: **FALSE**
6. Pentyla Harikrishna is from Tamil Nadu: **FALSE**
7. Everyone who plays chess thinks slowly: **FALSE**
8. **Complete the table with correct information about each player:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of the player** | **Began playing at the age of** | **Name of the country** | **Titles received** |
| Viswanathan Anand | 5 | India | Number 2 player in the world. Junior championship (1987) |
| Raul Capablanca | 4 | Cuba | World champion |
| Sammy Reshevsky | 4 | Poland | Wonder Boy |
| Koneru Humpy | 6 | India | World under-10 championship in 1997 |
| Judith Polgar | 15 | Hungary | Grandmaster in 1991 |
| Pentyla Harikrishna | 15 | India | Grandmaster at the age of 15 years, three months and five days |
| Parimarjan Negi | 13 | India | Grandmaster days old |
| Sergey Karajakin | 12 | Ukraine | Grandmaster months in 2002 |

1. **Answer these questions:**
2. **What is the first thought that comes to your mind when you think of chess?**

**Ans**: When we think of chess we think of two adults sitting opposite each other, thinking of ways and means to outsmart the other.

1. **How has Viswanathan Anand influenced the youngsters of India?**

**Ans**: The success of Viswanathan Anand has encouraged many youngsters of India to take to chess.

1. **Trace the career graph of Koneru Humpy.**

**Ans**: Koneru Humpy from the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh learnt chess at the age of six from her father. The youngster won the World under-10 Championship at Cannes, France, in 1997. In 2002, at the young age of 15 years, four months and 28 days, Humpy joined the select batch of world class chess masters, called Grandmaster or GM.

1. **Why was Chennai named the chess capital of India?**

**Ans**: Chennai was for long called the chess capital of India because it produced champions like Viswanathan Anand, Manuel Aaron and V. Ravi Kumar.

1. **How does chess prove beneficial for players?**

**Ans**: This is a game that helps the player in many ways but not only on the chess board. To play better, it becomes necessary to read chess books. You have to be able to keep scores, so your arithmetic gets strengthened. More importantly, you are the general of your army on the board and have to think carefully before making any move. Otherwise your opponent will corner your troops. For this you have to be able to think of various moves and choose the best possible move. Naturally, your thinking becomes faster and you learn to decide faster. Therefore chess proves to be beneficial for players.

1. **Answer these questions with reference to the context:**
2. **He was the first Asian ever to do so.  
   a. Who is the first Asian here?  
   b. What did he do?  
   c. Where did he do it?**

**Ans**:

1. Viswanathan Anand is the first Asian being spoken about.
2. He won the world junior championship.
3. He did this in the Philippines in 1987.
4. **So no one will accuse you of not being interested!  
   a. What will no one accuse you of?  
   b. How can a player of chess improve his moves?  
   c. What does chess do to the players thinking process?**

**Ans**:

1. No one will accuse of not being interested in reading.
2. The player has to be able to think of various moves and choose the best possible move.
3. Thinking becomes faster and you learn to decide faster.
4. **…we think of two adults sitting opposite each other, thinking of ways and means to outsmart the other.  
   a. What is the context of these lines?  
   b. Why are adults sitting opposite each other?  
   c. Why would they outsmart each other?**

**Ans**:

1. This is the way chess players sit across a chess board to play the game.
2. They are sitting opposite each other because they are playing against each other.
3. They must outsmart each other to win the game.