
Will Smith

WORKSHEET A

Willard Christopher Smith Junior was born on 25th September 1968, in Philadelphia, USA. He was the second of four children born to Caroline and Willard Smith Senior. He grew up in a middle class suburb in Philadelphia, and soon earned himself the nickname *The Fresh Prince*, because of his ability to charm his way out of trouble.

Will, who had been rapping since the age of twelve, found fame after meeting DJ Jeff Townes at a party. They got together to form DJ Jazzy Jeff and the Fresh Prince. They became very popular and together they produced two platinum albums and earned a Grammy award for the song *He's the DJ, I'm the rapper*.

However, by the time Will was eighteen, he had spent all his money and owed a lot in taxes. Fortunately, at that time Warner Brothers wanted to create a TV comedy show about a boy from a poor background living and growing up with a rich family in Los Angeles. Will successfully auditioned for the part of *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air* and his money worries were over. The show was a big hit and ran from 1989 to 1995.

Will continued his music career with Jazzy Jeff, and had great success with songs like *Summertime*. He made small appearances in some films, but when he co-starred with Martin Lawrence in *Bad Boys* in 1995 he established himself as a Hollywood name.

This was followed by the hit film *Independence Day* in 1996, in which he played a pilot helping to save the world from an alien invasion. The following year he worked with some more aliens in the film *Men in Black*, which co-starred Tommy Lee Jones.

Smith followed the successes of his action films with the thriller *Enemy of the State* in 1998. This film proved to the world that Will Smith could play not just comedy and action, but serious drama, too.

Not everything has run smoothly in his life, though. His marriage, in 1992, to Sheree Elizabeth Zampino ended in divorce in 1995. The two had a son, Willard III, who is nicknamed *Trey*. Will married his second wife, Jada Pinkett, on New Year's Eve in 1997. She has starred in *The Nutty Professor*, *Ali* and *The Matrix Reloaded*. Will and Jada seem very happy and have had two children together.

From 1999, Will had limited success with films like *Ali* and *The Legend of Bagger Vance*, which were artistically successful but didn't do very well at the box office. However, more recently he has brought out two sequels, *Men in Black II* and *Bad Boys II*, which have both been box office hits. Along with his *Greatest Hits* album, we are likely to be hearing, and seeing, a lot more of Will Smith in the future.

Will Smith crossword

WORKSHEET B

1. Answer the questions. Write the answers in the crossword to reveal the name of Will Smith's and Jada Pinkett's two children.

1. What is Jeff Townes' stage nickname? (5)
2. What is Will's mother's name? (8)
3. Where was Will born? (12)
4. What is Will's first son's nickname? (4)
5. Complete Will's old stage name: The Fresh _____. (6)
6. Which brothers produced Will's successful TV comedy show? (6)
7. In which city was the show set? (3,7)
8. Which film launched Will Smith as a Hollywood star? (3,4)
9. Which first name do Will, his father and his son all share? (7)
10. What was the job of Will's character in the film *Independence Day*? (5)
11. What, apart from Will Smith, do the films *Independence Day* and *Men in Black* have in common? (6)
12. What type (genre) of film is *Enemy of the State*? (8)
13. What is Will's first wife's last name? (7)
14. When in 1997 did Will marry his second wife? (3,5,3)

