

Athletes: Chloe Kim

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Image 1. Chloe Kim smiles after winning the silver medal during the women's halfpipe finals at the Burton U.S. Open Championships at Golden Peak on March 2, 2019, in Vail, Colorado. Photo by: Daniel Milchev/Getty Images

Chloe Kim was born on April 23, 2000, in Long Beach, California.

Her father took her to California's Mountain High resort when she was 4 years old. She got her first chance to snowboard.

Kim showed talent from the start. She soon joined Mountain High's snowboarding team and first competed at 6 years old.

Snowboarder Training

At age 8, Kim spent two years with an aunt in Europe. Her parents wanted her to learn French there. However, the time abroad also increased her love of snowboarding. As a third-grader, she was on the Swiss snowboard team. When her father visited, the pair would go to the slopes together. On one trip, he realized that his daughter had skills to become an Olympic-level athlete.

Kim's father ended up leaving his job to focus on her training. Back in California, Kim became part of a special skill development program at Mammoth Mountain. Traveling the 350 miles from the

family home in La Palma took more than five hours. Still, her father made the drive every weekend.

Being a skateboarder also helped Kim's snowboarding ability. She said she was also inspired by her family's work ethic.

Parents And Family

Kim's mother is Boran Yun and her father is Jong Jin Kim.

She has two older stepsisters, Tracy and Erica.

Jong Jin immigrated to the United States from South Korea in 1982 with little money. He worked several low-paying jobs before getting an engineering degree. He earned enough money in his career and real estate investments to stop working in order to support his daughter's snowboarding.

Kim began to represent the "American dream" for her father. He told ESPN, "As an immigrant, I could put my proud Korean last name in the American history books."

Though she sometimes argues with her father, Kim says "at the end of the day, I'm so grateful for his support and just the way he believed in me when no one else did."

While growing up, Kim visited South Korea often, and can speak Korean.

Kim has admitted, "I definitely, when I was younger, struggled a little to understand my identity and who I wanted to be." She's described having to face insensitive attitudes. "I always get the question: 'Where are you from? L.A. No, no, no, where are you really, really, really from? My parents are from Korea. Oh, OK.'"

Education

In the eighth grade, Kim started homeschooling, taking online classes.

Kim plans to attend college at Princeton University, in order to prepare for the future. She'll start in the fall of 2019. She once told NBC, "It's important to have a back-up plan for after my career because I can't snowboard for my whole life competitively."

2018 Olympic Winter Games

Kim became a household name during the 2018 Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea. She made history as the youngest woman to win the gold in snowboarding. On February 13, 2018, Kim scored 98.25 in her third snowboard halfpipe run in PyeongChang. This result placed her almost 10 points ahead of her closest competitor.

Before taking her final run, Kim was aware she'd already scored well enough to get the gold medal. However, she still completed back-to-back 1080s. This means she did three spins in the air, then



repeated the feat on the opposite side. Kim was the first female snowboarder to do this at the Olympics. Afterward she explained, "I just knew that I wasn't going to be completely satisfied taking home the gold and knowing that I could have done better."

There to watch her win were Kim's parents, her sisters and her grandmother. It was the first time Kim's grandmother, who lives in South Korea, got to see her compete.

Other Competitions

Though 2018 marks Kim's Olympic start, she's been competing for years at the U.S. Grand Prix, the X Games, the Dew Tour and other events.

In 2015 she won gold at the X Games. The next year she earned two more gold X Games medals. This made her the first athlete in these games to have three golds before turning 16.

In 2016, Kim participated in the Youth Olympic Games, which were held in Norway. She won halfpipe and slopestyle snowboarding gold medals.



Quiz

1 Read the paragraph from the section "2018 Olympic Winter Games."

Before taking her final run, Kim was aware she'd already scored well enough to get the gold medal. However, she still completed back-to-back 1080s. This means she did three spins in the air, then repeated the feat on the opposite side. Kim was the first female snowboarder to do this at the Olympics. Afterward she explained, "I just knew that I wasn't going to be completely satisfied taking home the gold and knowing that I could have done better."

Which of the following is an accurate explanation of what this paragraph means?

- (A) The main reasons why Kim did the back-to-back 1080s were to get enough points to win gold at the Olympics and prove that female and male snowboarders are the same.
- (B) Kim didn't have to do the back-to-back 1080s to win gold, but she wanted to make sure that she did her absolute best at the Olympics.
- (C) Kim didn't have to do the back-to-back 1080s to win gold, but her main goal was to become the first female snowboarder to do it at the Olympics.
- (D) The main reasons why Kim did the back-to-back 1080s were to try something she had not planned on doing at the Olympics and make sure she would win the gold.

2 When did Kim's father start taking his daughter's snowboarding talent very seriously? How do you know?

- (A) He began taking her snowboarding talent very seriously when she started winning medals at 6 years old. "She soon joined Mountain High's snowboarding team and first competed at 6 years old."
- (B) He began taking her snowboarding talent very seriously when he saw her snowboarding skills in Switzerland. "On one trip, he realized that his daughter had skills to become an Olympic-level athlete."
- (C) He began taking her snowboarding talent very seriously after he took her snowboarding in La Palma. "Traveling the 350 miles from the family home in La Palma took more than five hours. Still, her father made the drive every weekend."
- (D) He began taking her snowboarding talent very seriously after speaking with ESPN. "He told ESPN, 'As an immigrant, I could put my proud Korean last name in the American history books.'"

3 If this article were organized using chronology, which section would come FIRST?

- (A) Introduction [paragraphs 1-3]
- (B) "Snowboarder Training"
- (C) "Parents And Family"
- (D) "Other Competitions"

4 How is the structure of the introduction [paragraphs 1-3] similar to the structure of the section "Snowboarder Training"?

- (A) They both use chronology in their structures.
- (B) They both use comparison in their structures.
- (C) They both use cause and effect in their structures.
- (D) They both use problem and solution in their structures.