

NANCY LOPEZ



Read about Nancy Lopez. Then do the exercises.

On January 6, 1957, Nancy Lopez was born in Torrance, California. Her parents were there visiting Nancy's aunt when the dark-haired girl decided she was ready to come into this world. From the day she was born, Nancy made things happen!

Nancy grew up in a little house in Roswell, New Mexico. Nearby was Cahoon Park Golf Course.

Papa Lopez loved to play golf. He had learned the game from his old boss. Papa took Nancy to the golf course with him.

"Papa," eight-year-old Nancy said one day. "I'd have more fun playing than always watching. Please teach me? Please."

So Domingo gave his daughter her first lesson. He knew right away that she was a natural golfer.

Not much later, Nancy's mom became ill. Her doctor said she needed more exercise to help her get better. So everyday Nancy and her mother went to the golf course. Nancy played as they walked along. Soon she was very good at the game!

At the age of nine, Nancy won her first tournament. It was Roswell's PeeWee Tournament. In golf, the player who hits the ball the fewest times wins. Nancy had 110 fewer strokes than the 2nd place winner.

At age 11, she was invited to play in the New Mexico Women's Amateur Championship. Nancy later would win it three years in a row. Better yet, she beat her papa for the first time that year.

"Practice hard, work hard, and you can be number 1," Nancy's mom said. And that's what Nancy did: practice, practice, practice!

Soon Nancy was good enough to play nationally. To do so, she needed a club to sponsor her. The Roswell Country Club was "exclusive." No blacks or Mexican-Americans were allowed.

A club in Albuquerque jumped at the chance to sponsor her. She went on to become one of the greatest women golfers ever. She won a record five Ladies Professional Golfing Association titles in a row. She was named Athlete of the Year in 1978, and was voted into the LPGA Hall of Fame. She also earned more money than any golf rookie in history — including the men.

"If you lose today," Nancy's father taught her, "practice harder and you will win tomorrow."

She listened well. That is why they call Roswell, New Mexico "Home of the Queen of Golf."

A. Write a word or a group of words in each blank. Can you do it without looking at the story?

1. Nancy Lopez grew up in _____ but was born in _____.
2. She first played golf on the _____. Her _____ took her there and taught her how to play. His _____ had taught him.
3. Nancy said she'd have more fun _____ than _____. Papa knew right away she was a _____.
4. Nancy's mom walked on the golf course because _____ and the doctor said it would make her _____. _____ walked with her everyday. She _____ as they walked.
5. Nancy won her first tournament when she was _____. She had 110 fewer _____ than the 2nd place winner.
6. At age 11, she played in the _____ AND she _____ for the first time.
7. She went on to become _____ ever.
8. A key to her success was _____, _____, and more _____.

~~X~~ Hispanic folk art pictures often tell a story. They are very colorful with reds and yellows and greens and pinks. The drawing is very simple, too. Find some examples in your library. Then make a picture in the same style. Make it about Nancy Lopez. For extra fun, find out what a *molas* is. Make a *molas* of your project!

~~X~~ Find out more facts about Nancy Lopez. Write them here.
