



# Terry Fox: A Canadian Hero

## Part 1

Every September, on the second Sunday after Labour Day, thousands of Canadians participate in an annual event called The Terry Fox Run. The Run has been held since 1981. The event is held all over Canada and around the world. People participate in order to raise money to help find a cure for cancer.

Who was Terry Fox and why is there an annual event named after him?

Terry was born in 1958 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, the second child of Rolly and Betty Fox. Terry was their second son; his parents would go on to have another son and one daughter. In 1968 the Fox family moved from Winnipeg to Port Coquitlam, BC, near Vancouver.

As a boy, Terry was a good athlete – he loved team sports, including soccer, baseball, and rugby. He was involved in cross-country running as well as track and field. Of all the sports he participated in, basketball was Terry's favourite. When he first tried out for his high school team he didn't make it, but Terry's persistence and strong will paid off so that by Grade 10 he had made the team. That drive and single-mindedness would help him when he faced the greatest test of his life a few years later.

When Terry graduated from high school, he shared the Athlete of the Year Award with his best friend, Doug Alward. Terry went on to Simon Fraser University in Vancouver where he studied to become a high school Phys. Ed. Teacher. Like most young adults, he was eager to leave his childhood behind and get on with life. He was eighteen years old, in great shape, and looking forward to his future.

Terry was in his first year of university when he noticed a nagging pain in his right knee. When he went to the doctor to find out what was wrong, he was told that he had bone cancer, also known as *osteogenic sarcoma*. Terry was shocked and upset, especially when he was told the leg would have to be amputated above the knee. He was bitterly disappointed that he might have to give up sports. It wasn't long, though, before he decided he wasn't going to let the cancer hold him back.

Terry accomplished a lot more in the few years that were left to him. He died just four years after his cancer diagnosis, on June 28, 1981. In those four years Terry won the hearts of Canadians and proved that one ordinary person can accomplish extraordinary things.

## DOUBLE MEMORY CHALLENGE

Working from memory, place the eight facts below in the order they appear in the passage "Terry Fox, A Canadian Hero, Part 1".

Fill in the boxes on the left with numbers that match the facts' correct order. The second challenge is to fill in the blanks to complete each statement correctly.



	When Terry finished high school, he shared this award with his best friend: _____.
	Terry's first symptom of cancer was a _____.
	The Terry Fox Run has been held since _____.
	Terry decided cancer wasn't going to _____.
	Terry's favourite sport when he was a boy was _____.
	At university, Terry took courses to become a _____.
	Terry died _____ years after his cancer was diagnosed.
	Terry was born in _____ but moved to BC when he was about ten years old.



# Terry Fox: A Canadian Hero

## Part 2

Many people participate in a Terry Fox Run each September. People run because they are inspired by the story of Terry. He was a young man who found out he had cancer when he was only eighteen and died before he turned twenty-three. What did Terry accomplish that makes him a Canadian hero?

Terry's doctors amputated most of his right leg in the hope that this would stop the cancer and save his life. While Terry was in hospital he got to know children who had cancer. He admired their bravery and was inspired to raise money to find a cure for cancer.

Terry loved sports and he decided that losing a leg didn't mean he had to stop being an athlete. He joined a wheelchair basketball league to stay fit. One night he read about an athlete, Dick Traum, who was to become Terry's second inspiration. Dick had run a long race called the Boston Marathon and he, like Terry, had only one leg. Traum would never meet Terry, but in later years he would participate in Terry Fox Runs.

Terry's ambition was to run across Canada. He would ask people to make pledges for the kilometres he ran and the money would go to cancer research. For eighteen months Terry trained to get in shape for the thousands of kilometres ahead of him. He would begin at St. John's, Newfoundland on the east coast and finish in Vancouver on the west coast.

Terry called his run The Marathon of Hope - it began on April 12, 1980. At first, Canadians did not hear much about Terry's run. Then stories about it began to appear in the media, in newspapers and on television. People became more interested and they admired what Terry was doing. They also started making donations to support cancer research.

Sadly, Terry's run came to an end on September 1, 1980. He had run 5374 kilometres through five provinces before he reached Thunder Bay, Ontario. Terry stopped because he was too tired and sick to continue; the cancer had spread to his lungs.

Canadians hoped Terry would recover and finish his run. This was not to be for Terry died on June 28, 1981. Terry had said, "...if I don't make it, the Marathon of Hope better continue...It's got to go on without me." Many Canadians agreed - they would finish what he had started and raise money to find a cure for cancer. In thirty years, over \$450 million dollars has been raised for cancer research from Terry Fox Runs.

## IMHO Questions

### Terry Fox: A Canadian Hero

Part 2

The questions below, asking for your opinions, are based on information or statements found in *Terry Fox: A Canadian Hero, Part 2*.

**Use phrases such as:  
In my opinion... I think that...  
It is my belief that...  
Personally, I think... etc.**

1. The last sentence of the first paragraph of the passage asks: "What did Terry accomplish that makes him a Canadian hero?" Do you agree that Terry Fox was a hero? Why or why not?

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2. The passage mentions two sources of inspiration for Terry: meeting children with cancer and reading about Dick Traum, an athlete who ran marathons with a prosthetic (artificial) leg. In your own words, express how these events might have inspired Terry to run across Canada.

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3. Why do you think people were inspired to give money to cancer research after hearing about Terry and the Marathon of Hope?

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4. Do you think the world is a better place because of Terry Fox? What kind of example do you think he has set for other people?

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5. If you could organize a special event to raise money, what would it be for? What would you do and how would you organize it?

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