



# NEWS DETECTIVES

## TODAY'S NEWS STORY

### Football's 'atomic flea' named athlete of the year

#### KEYWORDS

- Crowning:**  
A final achievement
- Club:** A team based in a city rather than a national team
- Geriatric:**  
Old, or too old
- Ballon D'Or:**  
French for "Golden Boot"



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#### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Lionel Messi is an Argentinian footballer and one of the greatest players in history. He spent most of his career with Barcelona, where the team won 34 major trophies. His short stature, skill, and speed earned him the nickname "the atomic flea".

Lionel Messi has been awarded TIME Magazine's Athlete of the Year.

#### Atomic flea

To many fans he is already the greatest player of all time. But now he has done something no other footballer has managed: winning over the Americans.

Lionel Messi is TIME Magazine's Athlete of the Year, at a time when many thought his best football days were behind him.

Last year, he led Argentina to victory in the

World Cup, **crowning** a glorious career with his **club** side, Barcelona.

#### American dreams

But at 36, **geriatric** in footballing terms, the man nicknamed "la pulga" – "the flea" in Spanish – has found new fame and success in the USA.

Messi joined Inter Miami in July. Since then, the team, which is co-owned by fellow football legend David Beckham, has gone from strength to strength.

He scored 11 goals in 14

games, and helped the team win the Leagues cup, the top trophy in the US.

#### Soccer country

He also won his own eighth **Ballon D'Or**, football's highest award. According to TIME, Messi has driven a surge in ticket sales for Miami, as well as in interest in the beautiful game.

"Lionel Messi this year managed to do what once seemed impossible when he signed with Inter Miami: turning the US into a soccer country," said TIME.



# INVESTIGATION OF THE DAY

## WHO WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

**WHAT**  
is the  
Golden  
Boot?

**WHO**  
owns  
Inter Miami?

**WHERE**  
is Lionel  
Messi from?

**WHEN**  
did Messi  
join Inter  
Miami?

**WHY**  
has he been  
named Athlete  
of the Year?

**HOW**  
many goals has  
he scored this  
season?

### 1 CHECK YOUR FACTS

Make sure you have all the facts before you start your investigation. Can you answer these questions?

### 2 KNOW YOUR KEYWORDS

Can you remember what these keywords mean? Match the word to the correct meaning.

1=D

2=

3=

4=

1. **Crowning**

2. **Club**

3. **Geriatric**

4. **Ballon D'Or**

A. French for "Golden Boot"

B. Old, or too old

C. A team based in a city rather than a national team

D. A final achievement

### 3 LOOK AT ALL SIDES

There's always more than one side to every story. How might the people involved feel about the story?

**Argentinian football fans**

**Miami fans**

**Barcelona fans**

**Other football players in the USA**



Happy



Sad



Calm



Excited



Surprised



Angry



Scared



Bored



Disgusted



Confused

### 4 DISCUSS THE QUESTION

**Who would you choose?**

What do you think? Use the speaking prompts here to help you get started.

I disagree with...

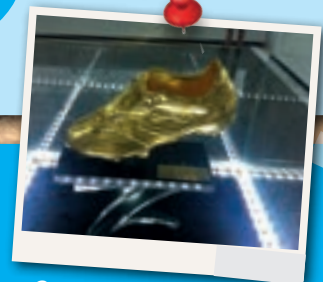
I agree with...

I'm not sure about...

I'd like to know more about...

I think that...

I don't think that...



### 5 REPORT BACK

Write, present or record a report that communicates your view. Share this with your class, family and friends. What's their opinion?