

# *Simone Biles*

Simone Arianne Biles was born on March 14, 1997, in Columbus, OH, and was raised by her grandparents. Her grandmother was an especially significant supporter of her gymnastics career and pushed her to showcase the excellence that she showed from a young age. She fell in love with gymnastics on a field trip to a gymnastics center with her daycare and was immediately asked to join. Her talent and immense capability only grew from there.



Biles' first big win was in 2011 when she finished first in vault and balance beam and third in all-around at the American Classic. She joined the 2016 Olympic Women's Gymnastics team and immediately wowed the entire country as a fan favorite and the only Black woman on the team. She became the first woman in 20 years to win the Olympic and World Championship titles for all-around, shattering records everywhere she went. While dealing with injuries at the 2020 Olympics, Simone was unable to compete in all her events but still walked away with medals and incredible performances.

Biles won the women's individual all-around gold medal at the 2016 Olympics, finishing 2.1 points higher than the silver medalist, a bigger margin than any win from years 1980-2012 combined, and at the same games, she became one of four women in history to win four gold medals at one Olympics. Simone is the most decorated American gymnast of all time, having won seven Olympic medals (4 gold) and 32 World Championship medals (19 gold). She is a three-time winner of the Laureus World Sports Award for Sportswoman of the Year and was named one of TIME Magazine's 100 Most Influential People and Forbes 30 under 30.





Biles' one-of-a-kind talent is beyond comparison. In 2014, Biles began showcasing what is now known as her signature move: the double layout with a half twist, and in May of 2021, she became the first woman in history to successfully land the coveted Yurchenko double pike move that had traditionally only ever been completed by male gymnasts. Her legacy also covers so much outside of gymnastics as she is a strong advocate for equity and support of Black athletes and #MeToo. Simone is an outspoken advocate and supporter of Colin Kaepernick and his impact on the world and Black athletes and used her Vogue interview to address racial injustices in the world, specifically speaking about Black Lives Matter and Colin Kaepernick's influential push for change. She is also a forceful supporter of the #MeToo Movement following her experience with Larry Nassar.

Simone Biles has already made history in gymnastics, but her impact on the world extends far beyond her athletic skills and her mark continues to be made on history.