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MAKING OLYMPIC HISTORY

# Jesse Owens

Replace the missing words.

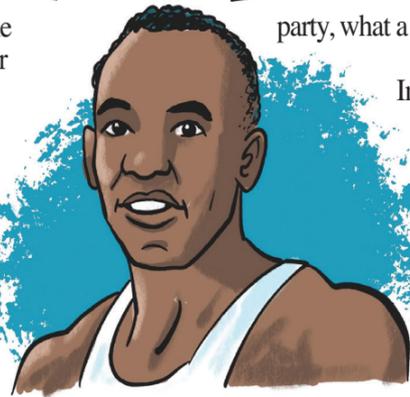
WIN FINISH CONSIDERED GOLD WORLD CONGRATULATED POVERTY BEST GERMANY

In 1936, Jesse Owens became the first American to win four Track and Field Olympic medals in one year.

The fact that he was the grandchild of slaves and that he grew up in \_\_\_\_\_ make his athletic achievements even more remarkable.

The 1936 Olympic Games took place in Berlin, \_\_\_\_\_. At that time, Germany's leader was Adolf Hitler, a man who thought Jewish people, black people and other groups of people were inferior to the people of Northern Europe.

Jesse \_\_\_\_\_ not going to the 1936 games because of Hitler's views. But then he thought it would be a chance for him to show the \_\_\_\_\_, and Hitler's Nazi



party, what a black man could do.

In his first race, the 100-meter sprint, Jesse Owens crossed the \_\_\_\_\_ line in 10.3 seconds—a new world record! Instead of inferior, Jesse Owens was the \_\_\_\_\_ of the best!

While the German people cheered him on, Adolf Hitler never shook Jesse's hand or \_\_\_\_\_ him.

Jesse went on to win three more gold medals in the 1936 Olympics, making him the first track-and-field star from the United States to win four gold medals at the Olympics. He showed the world that people of any race could \_\_\_\_\_ based on hard work and dedication, not race.

Standards Link: Language Art: Use nouns, adjectives and verbs correctly.

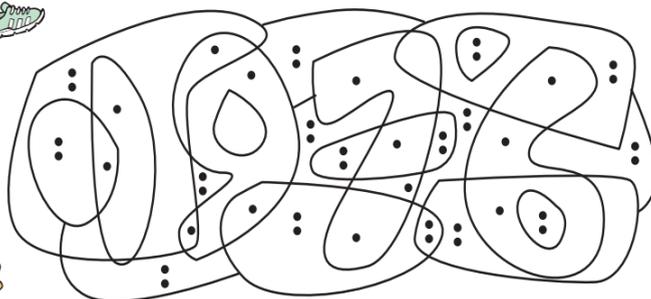
## Homecoming

New York City gave Jesse a ticker-tape parade when he came home from the Olympics, but he was still not treated equally in his own country.

"When I came back to my native country, after all the stories about Hitler, I couldn't ride in the front of the bus," Jesse said. "I had to go to the back door. I couldn't live where I wanted. I wasn't invited to shake hands with Hitler, but I wasn't invited to the White House to shake hands with the president, either."

## Long-Awaited Honor

40 years later, President Gerald Ford invited Jesse to the White House and gave him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor a civilian can achieve. What year was that? Color the spaces with one dot red.



Jesse went on to win many more awards and he talked to people about the importance of sports, the Olympics and democracy. He never stopped working to be better in his own life and to make lives better for others.

## SPORTSMANSHIP

Why help a competitor?



German athlete, Luz Long, competed against Jesse in the long jump. Even though he was a competitor, it is believed that Luz gave Jesse a tip that helped him win the event with a record-breaking jump of 26 feet, 5 5/16 inches. Luz was the first to congratulate and shake the hand of his new friend.

Why do you think Luz Long helped Jesse?

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How many differences can you find between these two postage stamps?



## Kid Scoop® Puzzler

When Jesse was a child in Alabama, white children and black children were not allowed to go to the same school. When he could, Jesse would walk nine miles to and from the only school for black children. He loved school.

When Jesse was in high school, he won races and set world records for his age group. Colleges wanted him to be on their track teams. Jesse became the first person in his family to go to college. He chose Ohio State University, where he became a member of the Buckeye track-and-field team.

Circle every other letter to discover the nickname Jesse earned in college.

S B D U L C Y K R E N Y T E F  
B H U Q L U L C E W T

B \_\_\_\_\_



## Double Double Word Search

- COMPETITOR
- DEDICATION
- POVERTY
- GERMANY
- PARADE
- MEDALS
- JESSE
- OWENS
- TRACK
- GAMES
- JUMP
- RACE
- GOLD
- BEST
- WIN

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

E B L Y N A M R E G  
T S E B A S K C O A  
E K S E N C L L R M  
D E C E A G D E E E  
A A W R J U M P C S  
R O T I T E P M O C  
A S L A D E M N R W  
P O V E R T Y D D I  
D E D I C A T I O N

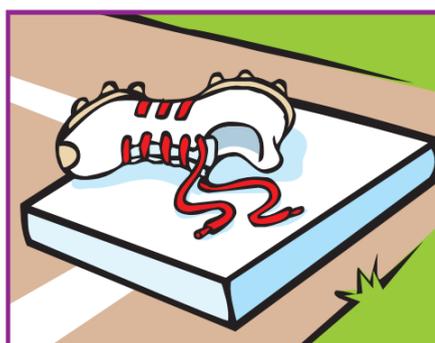
Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

## FROM THE Kid Scoop® LESSON LIBRARY

### Athlete Comparisons

Find and read an article in today's newspaper about an athlete. Why is this athlete in the news? Do you think this athlete is like Jesse Owens? Why or why not?

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.



**Why did Cinderella get thrown off the baseball team?**

ANSWER: She kept running away from the ball.