



Honoring the Spirit of America

www.museumofpatriotism.org

“Jesse Owens”

Grades 3-8

Objective: The student will summarize the major parts of Jesse Owens’ life.

Materials:

- Website: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesse_Owens
 - Provides a life summary of Jesse Owens
- Other research material on Jesse Owens (optional)
- Brown paper grocery sack for each students
- White construction paper
- Notebook paper
- Pencils
- Ruler
- Crayons, colored pencils
- Glue

Procedure:

1. Begin by asking students if anyone has ever heard of Jesse Owens. If so, invite students to share what they may have learned about him.
2. Share “teasers” about Jesse Owens with the class, with the hopes that they will want to learn more about him:
 - a. He became internationally famous by winning four gold medals in the 1936 Berlin Olympics.
 - b. He was born in Oakville, Alabama.
 - c. He has nine brothers and sisters.
 - d. His family was poor, so he worked delivering groceries, loading freight cars, and working in a shoe repair shop. Even with all this, his loved running so much that the coach allowed him to practice before school, since he worked these jobs after school.
 - e. He attended Ohio State University where he achieved several world records in track and field.
3. Encourage students to learn more about Jesse Owens by researching on their own. (The website listed above provides a detailed life summary of Owens.)

4. As students are gathering information on Owens, have students create a Biography Bag that will be made using a brown paper grocery sack. The sides of the bag should contain the following:
 - a. First large side: Title and student-drawn illustration of Jesse Owens
 - b. First small side: List of interesting facts from early years of Owens' life
 - c. Second large side: Summary of Owens' NCAA career, Berlin Olympics, and post-Olympic life
 - d. Second small side: Sequential timeline of events from Owens' life
 - e. Inside: an object that represents Owens. Have students bring an object from home, or create an object that would represent some part of Owens' life.
5. The Biography Bag should be constructed neatly, free of spelling errors, and all illustrations should be colored. All information on the bag should be written/drawn on white paper first, then glued to the bag in the appropriate spot. Encourage students to edit their work before gluing it to the bag.
6. Have students share their bag with the class, including the interesting object inside.

Assessment:

Evaluate students on the assembly of, and information contained on, the Biography Bag.