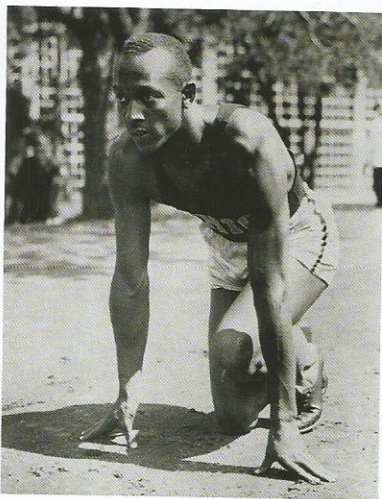


- 1 Look at the photo. What sport is it, do you think?



- 2 Read the article quickly and match the headings with the paragraphs (A–D).

- Early successes
- Greatest achievements
- Family and early years
- First experience of sport

Jesse Owens

- A** Jesse Owens was born in 1913 in Alabama. His family was poor, and Jesse worked in his spare time to support his family.
- B** Jesse was a fast runner and so he joined the school athletics team. He set a new schoolboys' world record for the 100-yard sprint.
- C** While at university Jesse had to work to pay for his studies. He also faced racial discrimination and wasn't allowed to live with white students. On 25th May, 1935, he broke four world records within 45 minutes: the 100-yard sprint, the 220-yard sprint, the long jump and the 220-yard hurdles. He was still a student!
- D** At the 1936 Olympic Games Jesse won the 100-metre sprint, the 200-metre sprint, the long jump and the 400-metre relay. He also broke three Olympic records. It was a fantastic achievement.

- 3 Answer the questions.

- 1 When and where was Jesse Owens born?
- 2 Why did Jesse have to work in his spare time?
- 3 In which event did Jesse break the world record while he was still at school?
- 4 In what ways was university life difficult for Jesse?
- 5 How many world records did Jesse set on 25th May, 1935, and how long did it take him?
- 6 How many gold medals did Jesse win at the 1936 Olympics, and in which events?

- 4 Find words in the text that mean:

- 1 time when you are not working
- 2 a measure of length, used in Britain and the USA:
91 centimetres
- 3 a short, fast race
- 4 treating people badly because they are a different colour
- 5 a race in which the runners have to jump over small fences
- 6 a race between teams of runners, swimmers, etc.

Writing tip: using paragraphs

When you are preparing to write an article, divide the information into different topics. Put all the information about each topic into a separate paragraph.

- 5 Match the sentences about Jesse Owens with the four topics in exercise 2.

- 1 By the end of his first year at college, Jesse realised he could compete at the highest level.
- 2 Jesse was the first American to win four gold medals in a single Olympics.
- 3 Jesse couldn't do sports after school because he had to work.
- 4 When Jesse was eight, his father lost his job and the family moved to Ohio.
- 5 The Nazis hoped to prove at the Games that white people were physically superior to black people.
- 6 Jesse's school sports teacher realised that Jesse was immensely talented.
- 7 Jesse had nine brothers and sisters.
- 8 When he travelled with fellow students he had to stay in 'blacks only' hotels.

- 6 Write an article (130–150 words) for a student magazine about a famous sportsperson from the past (someone who has retired or died). Include paragraphs on three or four of these topics and your own ideas.

- family
- early years and education
- first experience of sport
- early successes
- greatest achievements
- why you admire him/her

Check your work

Have you

- divided your article into paragraphs, each with its own topic?
- put the paragraphs in a logical order?
- checked your spelling and grammar?
- written 130–150 words?