

Comprehension

Check the answer that completes each sentence correctly.

1. Jim Thorpe grew up
_____ a. in a large city.
_____ b. on a reservation.
2. At Carlisle Indian School, Thorpe became
_____ a. a star football player.
_____ b. a star basketball player.
3. Thorpe helped Carlisle
_____ a. beat much larger schools.
_____ b. start a baseball team.
4. In the 1912 Olympics, Thorpe won gold medals in
_____ a. baseball.
_____ b. the pentathlon and the decathlon.
5. Olympic officials took away Thorpe's medals.
They said that Thorpe was
_____ a. a professional athlete.
_____ b. an American Indian.
6. After the Olympics, Thorpe
_____ a. starred in a movie about his life.
_____ b. played professional baseball and football.
7. Thorpe's Olympic medals were given back
_____ a. in the 1940s.
_____ b. after he was dead.

Sequence

Number the events in the correct order.

- _____ Thorpe plays in the National Football League.
- _____ Thorpe wins two gold medals in the Olympics.
- _____ Sportswriters name Thorpe the greatest athlete.
- _____ Thorpe stops playing football.

Vocabulary

Look at these words from the reading. Put a check next to words that you know. Underline words that you don't know yet. Find the words in the reading. Try to guess their meanings.

athlete	natural	record
compete	professional	reservation

Choose the answer that completes each sentence correctly.
Write it in the blank.

1. He set _____ at the Olympics. He ran faster than anyone else.
an athlete/a record
2. Some football players become _____ to make lots of money.
professional/natural
3. The Thorpe family lived on a _____ in Oklahoma.
reservation/record
4. Olympic athletes _____ against each other.
compete/record
5. _____ is someone who plays sports.
A record/An athlete
6. Thorpe was a _____ athlete. He learned new sports quickly and easily.
reservation/natural

Reading a Chart

Charts show information in rows and columns. This chart lists winners of the decathlon in the Olympic Games from 1912 to 1940.

Olympic Winners in the Decathlon, 1912–1940

Year	Place of Olympics	Decathlon winner	Winner's country
1912	Stockholm, Sweden	Jim Thorpe	United States
1916	Berlin, Germany	Games were not played because of World War I.	
1920	Antwerp, Belgium	Helge Lovland	Norway
1924	Paris, France	Harold Osborn	United States
1928	Amsterdam, Netherlands	Paavo Yrjola	Finland
1932	Los Angeles, U.S.A.	James Bausch	United States
1936	Berlin, Germany	Glenn Morris	United States
1940	Tokyo, Japan	Games were not played because of World War II.	

Read each statement. If it is correct, check *Yes*. If not, check *No*.
Use information from the chart.

Yes No

- _____ _____ 1. The 1912 Olympics were played in Stockholm, Sweden.
- _____ _____ 2. The Olympic Games were played in Tokyo, Japan, in 1940.
- _____ _____ 3. The winner of the 1928 Olympic decathlon was from Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- _____ _____ 4. The 1936 Olympic decathlon was won by Glenn Morris.
- _____ _____ 5. The United States won the Olympic decathlon four times between 1912 and 1940.

Oren Lyons is a chief of the Onondaga nation. He said, "Jim Thorpe was beaten, but he was never tamed. . . . He suffered, but he survived."²

Is this a good description of Thorpe's life? Why or why not?

Connecting Today and Yesterday

Are Jim Thorpe's successes important today? Why or why not?

Group Activity

Professional athletes now compete in some Olympic sports. Think about the following people:

- Jim Thorpe
- Olympic officials in 1912
- Olympic officials today

What would they say about professionals in the Olympics? Role-play a conversation in your group.

Class Discussion

1. How do you think Thorpe felt about losing his Olympic medals?
2. Is it important that Thorpe's medals were returned?

Reflections

1. What is the most interesting thing that you read in this lesson?
2. How can you learn more about Jim Thorpe?

Adapted from *American Lives: Readings and Language Activities, Book 1* © 2005 New Readers Press, a Publishing Division of ProLiteracy. Used with permission.