



1936 Berlin Olympics

Americans Show Up Germany's So-called Master Race

Overview:

This lesson teaches about the most dramatic Olympic face-off in history, held in Germany during the build-up to the second World War. In these games, held in 1936, African-American athletes showed the world the foolhardiness of Hitler's concept of a superior "Master Race."

Lesson Prompt:

How many of you watched the Olympic Games? Which events were your favorites? Which athletes do you like? How did the pandemic affect these Olympic Games? Can you think of any other worldwide events that would affect an event like the Olympics, which bring different countries together from all across the globe?

This lesson includes a prepared PowerPoint slide deck summarizing the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Share the slide show and have students consider and discuss the questions contained in it to spark discussion. There are accompanying critical thinking questions to measure basic comprehension and prompt deeper thinking. There are also multiple choice questions to measure basic comprehension of the material.

Vocabulary:

Aryan, Turmoil, Führer, Eugenics, Behemoth, Boycott, Allegiance, Sepia, Garner, Shunt, Surreal

Recommended Resources:

WEBSITES

[Berlin-1936 Olympic Games \(International Olympic Committee\)](#)

[The Nazi Olympics](#)

[Jesse Owens](#)

[Joe Louis](#)

[Marty Glickman, Jesse Owens and a Forgotten Story of the 1936 Berlin Olympics](#)