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JESSE OWENS

An Amazing Athlete



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Jesse Owens was born in Alabama, USA, in 1913. He came from a poor family, so he had many part-time jobs as a student. He worked hard, but still found time for his favourite pastime, running. His natural talent made him a track star in high school, and then in college.

On 25th May 1935, at the Big Ten Championships in Michigan, Jesse became a world champion. He broke three world records in one day! For the next 30 years, nobody could break those records.

Jesse trained hard and took part in the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. He was the first American in the history of Olympic athletics to win four gold medals in one Olympic Games: the 100m and 200m sprints, the long jump and the 4x100m relay.

However, Jesse's success as an athlete didn't help him financially. He had lots of different jobs and worked hard to support his family. He died in 1980, and to this day his family runs the Jesse Owens Foundation, which gives young athletes with financial problems a chance in the world of sports.

Read the text again and complete the table. Write what Jesse Owens did in each of the following years as in the example.

1913	
1935	
1936	
1980	He died.