

Read the following then answer the questions.

The history of the Olympic Games is full of interesting stories. Jesse Owens, an American athlete won four gold medals in the 1936 Olympic Games. Owens had a dark skin and he had ten brothers and sisters. His mother named him J.C. but one particular teacher began calling him 'Jesse'.



The 1936 Olympic Games were held in Germany where the Nazi Party was in power. The Nazi Party leader, Hitler, believed that the German race was superior to all the other races. So Hitler couldn't believe his eyes when Jesse, a black athlete defeated German and other white athletes. Hitler even refused to shake hands with Jesse Owens.

But even in America people who had a dark skin were regarded as inferior to whites. When Jesse returned to America as the winner of four Olympic gold medals, he couldn't even use a lift that was reserved for white people. Today America has changed and the country has just elected its first black President, Barak Obama who became President of the United States in 2008.

1. When are Olympic Games held?

2. In ancient days these games were always held in one particular country. Write down the name of this country. _____

3. In 1936 Jesse Owens received four gold medals. Why did he receive these medals? _____

4. Who started to organise the Modern Olympic Games after they had stopped being held in the ancient days? _____

5. Give one reason why nations can benefit from the Olympic Games.

6. Give one reason why sport is important.

