Oklahoma Sports Stars

Read about four athletes and their achievements.

3.C.3.3.E "Sports (e.g., Bill Pickett, Jim Thorpe, Mickey Mantle, Shannon Miller)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB For each athlete, underline the connection to Oklahoma and circle the sport or event that made the athlete famous. These marks will help you compare their stories.

Four Paths Through Sports

1. At a rodeo, a rider races beside a steer. Bill Pickett became famous for a rodeo skill called steer wrestling. He developed a way to wrestle a steer to the ground and showed it to crowds. Pickett worked at the 101 Ranch in Oklahoma, where rodeo performers trained and put on shows. His skill helped make him one of the first Black rodeo stars.

2. Jim Thorpe was born in Indian Territory, on land that is now Oklahoma. He became a star in track and field, winning two gold medals at the 1912 Olympics. He won the pentathlon and the decathlon, contests made up of several events. Mickey Mantle was born in Spavinaw, Oklahoma. He played baseball for the New York Yankees and became known for hitting long home runs.

3. Shannon Miller grew up in Edmond, Oklahoma, and trained as a gymnast. At the 1996 Olympics, she helped the United States women's gymnastics team win its first Olympic team gold medal. She also won a gold medal on the balance beam. Pickett, Thorpe, Mantle, and Miller did not play the same sport. Each built a name in sports, and each has a connection to Oklahoma.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What did Bill Pickett do that helped make him a rodeo star?

2. Which two track and field contests did Jim Thorpe win at the 1912 Olympics?

3. What was Mickey Mantle known for doing in baseball?

4. What did Shannon Miller help her team win, and what did she win on her own?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose two athletes from the passage for an Oklahoma sports display. Write three sentences that explain each athlete's Oklahoma connection and sports achievement, then tell why their stories belong together.

ANSWER KEY

Oklahoma Sports Stars

GRADE 3 · 3.C.3.3.E

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

For each athlete, underline the connection to Oklahoma and circle the sport or event that made the athlete famous. These marks will help you compare their stories. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did Bill Pickett do that helped make him a rodeo star?	**He developed a way to wrestle a steer to the ground and showed the skill to crowds.**
2	Which two track and field contests did Jim Thorpe win at the 1912 Olympics?	**He won the pentathlon and the decathlon.**
3	What was Mickey Mantle known for doing in baseball?	**He was known for hitting long home runs for the New York Yankees.**
4	What did Shannon Miller help her team win, and what did she win on her own?	**She helped the U.S. women's gymnastics team win gold and won her own gold medal on the balance beam.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Bill Pickett worked at an Oklahoma ranch and became a rodeo star by showing crowds his steer-wrestling skill. Shannon Miller grew up in Edmond, Oklahoma, and won a gold medal on the balance beam. Their stories belong together because both athletes with Oklahoma ties became known for their skill in different sports.

Accept accurate wording from the passage. For the display label, look for two Oklahoma connections, two sports achievements, and a reason the stories belong together.