Additional Resources for Teaching About the 1936 Olympics

Funded in part by Florida Department of Education Commissioner’s Task Force on Holocaust Education
Use of Materials and Resources Related to the Holocaust

• The nature of the subject of the Holocaust and the possible associated emotional impact means that teachers must take special care to preview all materials in their entirety.

• A designation by the publisher does not always accurately take into consideration the ages, reading level, or emotional maturity of the students.

• Visual materials, including but not limited to videos, DVDs, YouTube, need to be viewed in their entirety prior to use. This includes materials in the media center.

• All procedures/processes that are in place at the school site regarding the use of audio-visual resources should be followed.

• Many times, students have seen movies or read books with their parents or guardians. This does not mean the same materials are appropriate for classroom viewing or use.
The Nazi Olympics Berlin 1936
by Susan D. Bachrach

Drawn from an exhibit mounted by the United States Holocaust Museum, an enthralling glimpse into the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin during which the German Nazi Party tried to turn the Games into a propaganda instrument for its own political agenda profiles the organizers, the politicians, and the athletes.

https://www.ushmm.org/information/exhibitions/online-exhibitions/nazi-olympics-berlin-1936
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Let the Games Begin
Historical Analysis & Interpretation

https://www.docsteach.org/activities/student/1-let-the-games-begin

http://docsteach.org

to register for free account
The "New Germany" on the Olympic Stage

*Holocaust and Human Behavior - Chapter 7*

The 1936 Olympics in Nazi Germany
Teaching with Primary Sources

https://florida.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/802d1bab-d544-4be0-93c3-693570ddb72e/the-1936-olympics-in-nazi-germany/#.X--TYi2cbUo

https://www.thinkport.org/tps/worldhist/inquiry-kits.html?unit=5&topic=11
Olympic Spirit: Teaching with the Olympics

https://teachinghistory.org/nhec-blog/25632
The 1936 Olympic Games were held in Berlin, Germany, despite concerns about the racist Nazi government and Adolf Hitler. In an event hosted by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, participants discussed Hitler’s objective to showcase the so-called “master race,” and the experiences of Black and Jewish athletes who decided to participate in the games. The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum also provided the video for this online event.
Film: OLYMPIC PRIDE, AMERICAN PREJUDICE

Olympic Pride, American Prejudice explores the experiences of 18 African American Olympians who defied Jim Crow and Adolf Hitler to win hearts and medals at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. Set against the strained and turbulent atmosphere of a racially divided America, which was torn between boycotting Hitler’s Olympics or participating in the Third Reich’s grandest affair, the film follows 16 men and two women before, during and after their heroic turn at the Summer Olympic Games in Berlin. They represented a country that considered them second class citizens and competed in a country that rolled out the red carpet in spite of an undercurrent of Aryan superiority and anti-Semitism.

They were world heroes yet returned home to a short-lived glory. This story is complicated. This story is triumphant but unheralded. This story is a vital part of history and is as relevant today as it was almost 80 years ago.

Since the 1936 Olympics was a well-documented event, this film will utilize the wealth of newsreel material, newspaper articles, photographs, personal interviews and never-before-seen footage as well as resources from the personal archival collections of Olympians and organizations in both the U.S. and Germany.

https://www.1936olympicsmovie.com/
Olympic Pride, American Prejudice: The Untold Story of 18 African Americans Who Defied Jim Crow and Adolf Hitler to Compete in the 1936 Berlin Olympics by Deborah Riley Draper

Set against the turbulent backdrop of a segregated United States, sixteen black men and two black women are torn between boycotting the Olympic Games in Nazi Germany or participating. If they go, they would represent a country that considered them second-class citizens and would compete amid a strong undercurrent of Aryan superiority that considered them inferior. Yet, if they stayed, would they ever have a chance to prove them wrong on a global stage? To be better than anyone ever expected?

Five athletes, full of discipline and heart, guide readers through this harrowing and inspiring journey. Drawing on over five years of research, Draper and Thrasher bring to life a timely story of perseverance and the will to beat unsurmountable odds.

From burning crosses set on the Robinson’s lawn to a Pennsylvania small town on fire with praise and parades when the athletes return from Berlin, Olympic Pride, American Prejudice is full of emotion, grit, political upheaval, and the American dream. Capturing a powerful and untold chapter of history, the narrative is also a celebration of the courage, commitment, and accomplishments of these talented athletes and their impact on race, sports and inclusion around the world.

Discover the astonishing, inspirational, and largely unknown true story of the eighteen African American athletes who competed in the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games, defying the racism of both Nazi Germany and the Jim Crow South.
Fast Girls: 
A Novel of the 1936 Women's Olympic Team 
by Elise Hooper

The author explores the gripping, real life history of female athletes, members of the first integrated women’s Olympic team, and their journeys to the 1936 summer games in Berlin, Nazi Germany.

In the 1928 Olympics, Chicago’s Betty Robinson competes as a member of the first-ever women’s delegation in track and field.

Outside of Boston, Louise Stokes, one of the few black girls in her town, sees competing as an opportunity to overcome the limitations placed on her. Eager to prove that she has what it takes to be a champion, she risks everything to join the Olympic team.

From Missouri, Helen Stephens, awkward, tomboyish, and poor, is considered an outcast by her schoolmates, but she dreams of escaping the hardships of her farm life through athletic success.

These three athletes will join with others to defy society’s expectations of what women can achieve. As tensions bring the United States and Europe closer and closer to the brink of war, Betty, Louise, and Helen must fight for the chance to compete as the fastest women in the world amidst the pomp and pageantry of the Nazi-sponsored 1936 Olympics in Berlin.
Hitler's Olympics: The 1936 Berlin Olympic Games
by Christopher Hilton

Hitler's Olympics creates a vivid account of the disputes, personalities and events of what was one of the largest propaganda exercises in history.
In Hitler's Olympics, Anton Rippon tells the story of those remarkable Games, the first to overtly use the Olympic festival for political purposes. His account, which is illustrated with almost 200 rare photographs of the event, looks at how the rise of the Nazis affected German sportsmen and women in the early 1930s. And it reveals how the rest of the world allowed the Berlin Olympics to go ahead despite the knowledge that Nazi Germany was a police state.
In this comprehensive examination of the 1936 Olympic Games, historian Large explores everything from Berlin's bid to secure the games-amongst much political jockeying and threats of international boycott-to politicized training regimes, shocking mistreatment of Jewish and black athletes and, finally, the tense contest itself.
At the 1936 Olympics, against a backdrop of swastikas and goose-stepping storm troopers, an African-American son of sharecroppers won a staggering four gold medals and single-handedly demonstrated that Hitler’s myth of Aryan supremacy was a lie. The story of Jesse Owens at the Berlin games is that of an athletic performance that transcends sports. It is also the intimate and complex tale of one remarkable man’s courage. Drawing on unprecedented access to the Owens family, previously unpublished interviews, and exhaustive archival research, Jeremy Schaap transports us to Germany and tells the dramatic tale of Owens and his fellow athletes at the contest dubbed the Nazi Olympics.

With his incisive reporting and rich storytelling, Schaap reveals what really happened over those tense, exhilarating weeks in a nuanced and riveting work of sports history.
https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/search/?q=36+olympics
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