JIM THORPE

Have you ever watched the Olympic Games? They are exciting sports contests that happen every four years. At the Olympics, the best athletes from all nations of the world compete.

Many Oklahomans have been Olympic champions. One of the earliest champions was a Sac and Fox young man, named Jim Thorpe. At the Olympic Games in 1912, he was called the “greatest athlete in the world.”

Jim was born in Indian Territory and grew up on a farm. His Sac and Fox name was Wa-Tho-Huk which means "Bright Path." He liked hunting with his father and helping on the farm.

But he didn’t like school very much. Not until he went to high school. There he found that he enjoyed playing football. But he was also good at track and field events, like running and jumping. He broke many of his high school records for sports. So it wasn’t surprising when he won a spot on the United States Olympic team.

Jim Thorpe won two gold medals at the Olympics. Later, he played professional basketball, baseball and football. You can see his medals on display in the state capitol under his picture.

1. What sports did Jim Thorpe play?

2. What made Jim enjoy going to school?

3. What are the Olympics?