

Get To Know Team USA with Sweet Blackberry!

African-Americans in the Olympics

Did you know African Americans did not make their debut in the world Olympics until 1904? His name was George Poage and he ran track. Though he qualified to compete among the world's most prestigious athletes, the athletic facilities were still segregated. Civil Rights leaders urged Poage to boycott the Olympics due to these conditions but Poage knew that by competing and dominating his events, he would send a stronger message. He deserved to be there. Poage was the first African-American athlete to win a medal at the Olympic games winning two bronze medals in St. Louis that year. He paved the way for Jesse Owens, Alice Coachman and Cassius Clay (who later went by Muhammad Ali) in 1936.

The 1936 Olympics were also groundbreaking because they were the first to feature an African-American woman, Tidy Pickett who had been previously left out of the 1932 games due to segregation. The most notable games to affect the Civil Rights movement however came in 1968. Track stars Tommie Smith and John Carlos won their events and stood tall with fists in the air to symbolize black unity during the national anthem.



Today's athletes show the same amount of strength and focus of the athletes during the Civil Rights movement. George Poage, Jesse Owens and Tidy Pickett of yesterday are our Serena Williams, Gabby Douglass and Carmelo Anthony of today.



This activity gives you the chance to get to know this year's ground shakers making their names known as members of Team USA. Print out the sheets below and cut across the dotted line to quiz your friends and family in preparation for the Olympic games next month. Visit TeamUSA.org for more information on each athlete.

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I am a gymnast from Columbus, OH.
My favorite event is vault.
I began gymnastics at the age of 6.

Sweet Blackberry - Simone Biles

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I am from Houston, TX.
I am a third degree black belt.
I began taekwondo at age, 9.

Sweet Blackberry - Nia Abdallah

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I am from Tucson, AZ.
My nickname is Black Cactus.
I became a U.S. citizen in 2000.

Sweet Blackberry - Abdi Abdirahman

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I am from New York, New York.
I play for the New York Nicks.
I am a three-time Olympian.

Sweet Blackberry - Carmelo Anthony

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I am from Duncanville, TX
I play on the Indiana Fever.
I am the 2015 ESPN Sports
Humanitarian of the Year.

Sweet Blackberry - Tamkika Catchings

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I am from Cleveland, OH.
I am a middleweight boxer.
At 18, I am the youngest member of
the U.S. team.

Sweet Blackberry - Charles Conwell

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I am from Flint, MI.
I am the first high school graduate
in my family.
I am the first American female to
win Olympic gold in boxing.

Sweet Blackberry - Claressa Shields

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I was raised in New York, NY.
I am the first U.S. men's fencer to
medal in saber at the senior world
championships.
I am a four-time NCAA All-
American.

Sweet Blackberry - Daryl Homer

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I am from Maplewood, NJ.
I am a three-time NCAA All-American.
I am the 2012 Muslim Sportswoman of the year.

Sweet Blackberry - Ibtihaj Muhammed

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I am from New York, NY.
I am a 2015 graduate of Columbia University.
I am the first African-American to ever win an individual medal at the senior world championships.

Sweet Blackberry - Nzingha Prescod

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I am from South Euclid, OH.
My sport is fencing.
I am a graduate of Ohio State University.

Sweet Blackberry - Jason Pryor

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I was born in London, UK.
I am a 2012 Olympian.
I am the first U.S. men's fencer to win an individual senior world championship title.

Sweet Blackberry - Miles Chamley Watson

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I am from The Bronx, NY.
I participated in the 2012 Olympic games.
I studies at DeVry University.

Sweet Blackberry - John Orozco

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

My sport is Judo.
I am a two-time NCAA Champion.
I currently reside in San Jose, CA.

Sweet Blackberry - Colton Brown

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I am from Sugar Land, TX.
I began swimming at age,5.
I'm one of three African-Americans to ever medal in any Women's NCAA Division I Swimming Championship.

Sweet Blackberry - Simone Manuel

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I currently reside in Brooklyn, NY.
I took home Bronze in the 2012 Olympics.
I have a seven-year-old cat named Peanut.

Sweet Blackberry - Lia Neal

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I was born in Lagos, Nigeria.
I am a 2016 graduate of University of Texas.
My events are the 100-meter and 4x100-meter in track.

Sweet Blackberry - Morolake Akinosun

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I am from Houston, TX.
I participated in the Junior Olympics.
I was first a U.S. Olympic Team member in 2004.

Sweet Blackberry - Nia Ali

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I am a U.S. hurdler.
This is my first Olympics.
I am a former Ohio University All-American.

Sweet Blackberry - Ronnie Ash

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I am from Moreno Valley, CA.
I am a discus thrower.
I am a 2012 NCAA Outdoor Champion.

Sweet Blackberry - Whitney Ashley

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I am from Kannapolis, NC.
I am a three-time All-American for the University of Tennessee.
I am a U.S. thrower for track and field.

Sweet Blackberry - Tavis Bailey

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I am from Miami, FL.
I went to Princeton University.
I am a goalkeeper for water polo.

Sweet Blackberry - Ashleigh Johnson

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I am from Gainesville, GA.
I am a U.S. weightlifter.
I am the first athlete to represent team USA since 2000.

Sweet Blackberry - Jenny Arthur

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I was on the 2008 and 2012 Olympic teams.
I started weightlifting at age, 11.
I train in Shreveport, LA.

Sweet Blackberry - Kendrick Farris

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I was born in Camden, NJ.
I won gold in the 2012 Olympics.
My sport is wrestling.

Sweet Blackberry - Jordan Burroughs

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I was born in Columbia, OH.
My sport is wrestling.
I am a two-time NCAA champion.

Sweet Blackberry - J'den Cox

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I am from Virginia Beach, VA.
I was a member of 2012's Fierce
Five.
My nickname is the Flying Squirrel.

Sweet Blackberry - Gabby Douglass

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I was born in New Hyde, NY.
My sport is soccer.
I was nominated for an ESPY in the
Best Female College Athlete
category.

Sweet Blackberry - Crystal Dunn

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I am from Denver, CO.
My sport is soccer.
I went to Texas Tech.

Sweet Blackberry - Jaelene Hinkle

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I am from Palos Verdes, CA.
My sport is soccer.
I broke every offensive record in
Stanford University's history.

Sweet Blackberry - Christen Press

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I am from Highlands Ranch, CO.
My sport is soccer.
I went to UCLA.

Sweet Blackberry - Mallory Pugh

2016 USA OLYMPIC TEAM

Who Am I?

I am from Los Angeles, CA.
I went to Washington State
University.
My sport is track.

Sweet Blackberry - Jeshua Anderson