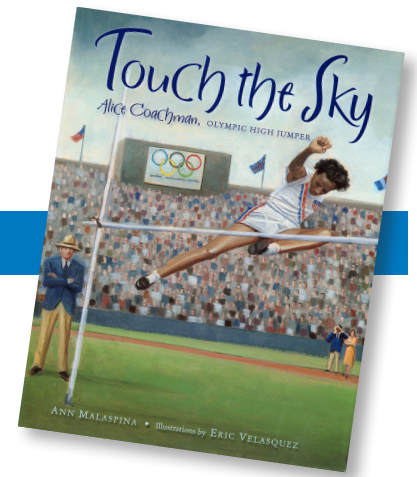


Touch the Sky

Alice Coachman, Olympic High Jumper



RIF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR EDUCATORS

STEAM-THEMED: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART, MATH

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATH

GOING FOR GOLD CLASSROOM OLYMPICS!

PASTA POLES

Materials: boxes of spaghetti, straws, masking tape

Have groups of students work in groups to see who can build the longest pasta pole. Begin by having students tape a drinking straw to the edge of a desk as the base. Students must then use spaghetti and tape to build as long a pole possible without having it touch the ground.

LEMON BOAT FLOATS

Materials: per group,
1/2 lemon, spoons,
10 toothpicks, 20
mini marshmallows;
marbles, small tub
of water



Challenge: Students must use the materials to create a lemon boat design that can hold the most marbles without tipping over. Once done, place boats in water and begin filling them with marbles. Record each boat's marble capacity. Discuss designs and what features helped boats hold more. (*Be mindful of citrus allergies.*)

JAVELIN TOSS

Materials: paper

Using one sheet of paper, each student must design a javelin. Have students throw their javelins and measure the distance traveled at least three times. Students must find the average distance traveled for their javelin. On average, which design went the farthest? Why?

TECHNOLOGY, SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, MATH A RANGE OF CHANGE

Watch the video Measuring a Champion at www.nbclearn.com/summerolympics/cuecard/59563. How has technology changed since the 1948 Olympics? Would these changes affect Alice's event? Choose at least one Olympic sport and discuss as a class or in small groups how technology has changed since 1948 and why that change is good or bad for the sport.

ART MODEL MEDALS

Materials: paper; markers, crayons, or colored pencils

The country that hosts the Olympics creates its own unique medals to award. Tell students they've been chosen to design the gold medal for the next Olympics. Have them create a design that captures what the Olympic games represent. Students should present their medals to small groups and explain their designs.

SCIENCE, WRITING NATURE OR NURTURE?

Have students write a persuasive essay on the following prompt: Are Olympic athletes born with natural talent or do they develop their talent over time through hard work? Have students pick a side and develop their arguments using an outline or a graphic organizer. Each student should give supporting examples from the book or real life.

