The Last Black King of the Kentucky Derby

RIF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR EDUCATORS



THINK-TAC-TOE ACTIVITY OPTIONS

- ◆ Individual students can choose an activity to complete.
- Student pairs or cooperative groups can work together on a choice of their own.
- Educators can assign an activity for an individual, pairs or groups.

WINNER'S CIRCLE

Jimmy Winkfield isn't the only Black American racing legend from decades past. Research Jesse Owens and Wendell Scott. Make a chart or diagram to compare their lives and accomplishments to Jimmy Winkfield's. What traits do you share with them? What traits could you learn from them?

Social Studies/Informative Writing

HANDS DOWN

Horses are measured in *hands*. A hand is 4 inches. An average race horse is 16 hands high. How many inches is that? Use a ruler or tape measure to measure items in your classroom or on the playground. Make a chart showing things that are 1 hand high, 2 hands high, etc. Can you find anything that is 16 hands high?

Math

HATS OFF

Women at the Kentucky Derby compete to see who can wear the fanciest, most elaborate hat. Research to find out how this tradition started. Show your findings in a poster, brochure or PowerPoint. Find examples of past hats and include your list of the Top 10 craziest derby hats—with pictures!

Social Studies/Informative Writing

HORSING AROUND

Thoroughbred horses like the ones Jimmy rode can run over 40 miles per hour (mph). If a horse that runs 40 mph runs for 2 hours, how many miles will it run? What about if it runs 3 hours? 5 hours? What if it only runs for half an hour? Research to find out how many miles per hour the fastest horse ever recorded ran.

Math

SURVIVOR: ASSATEAGUE ISLAND

More than a hundred wild horses live on Assateague Island in Virginia and Maryland. Legend has it their ancestors were horses shipwrecked on the island 300 years ago. Write a story or draw a comic strip about that legend. How did the ship wreck? Was there a storm? How did the horses survive? Did any people survive? How many horses made it to the island?

Word Smart/History

A DAY AT THE RACES

Pretend you are a reporter living in Jimmy's time. Write a newspaper article about his first Kentucky Derby win. Be sure to include information about Jimmy's background, the date of the race, the name of Jimmy's horse and why Jimmy's victory is so important. Don't forget a headline!

History/Informative Writing

PONY UP

What kid wouldn't want a pony? Write your parents or guardian a letter explaining why they should buy you a pony. List at least 3 reasons why you need a pony and give supporting details for each. Be sure to use proper letter format!

Word Smart/Persuasive Writing

NEIGHSAYER

"Neigh" is an onomatopoeia, which means it sounds like the noise it describes, like "thud" or "thump." Make a list of at least 10 examples of onomatopoeia. Use all 10 to write a poem about horses, racing or someone who has inspired you. Draw a picture to go with your poem.

Word Smart/Creative Writing

HEALTHY AS A HORSE

Jockeys have to stay healthy so they won't be too heavy for their horses. Are you making smart food choices? Keep track of everything you eat for a day. Make a food pyramid like this one teamnutrition.usda.gov/resources/mpk_close.pdf to show how much of each food group you ate. How does your food pyramid compare to that one?

Science/Nutrition

