

Name: _____

Swimming Star

by Kimberly M. Hutmacher

Gertrude (Trudy) Ederle was born in New York City in 1906. She learned to swim at her family home on the Jersey shore. In 1918 she went to the Women's Swimming Association in New York for coaching.



When she was just 15, Trudy competed in the Joseph P. Day Cup Race. She won this 3 ½ mile race, beating out 51 other champion swimmers from the United States and England. A month after this race, she broke seven world records. The following year, she won seven major titles.

In 1925, Trudy made her first attempt at swimming across the English Channel, a thirty-five mile journey from France to England. She didn't make it the first time, but she tried again the next year. This time she succeeded. Trudy Ederle was the first woman to successfully swim the English Channel.

1. For which



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2. If Gertrude Ederle were alive today, how old would she be?

- a. Less than a 100 years old
- b. Between 100 and 110 years old
- c. Between 110 and 120 years old
- d. More than 120 years old

3. Which statement about Gertrude Ederle is a fact?

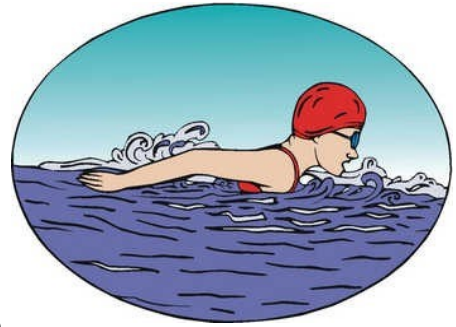
- a. Gertrude Ederle competed in the Joseph P. Day Cup Race.
- b. Gertrude Ederle's success shows that women are better swimmers than men.
- c. Gertrude Ederle was the best athlete of the early 1900s.
- d. Gertrude Ederle was an inspirational person.

4. Describe one swimming event mentioned in the passage in which Gertrude Ederle did not succeed.

ANSWER KEY

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1. For which



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2. If Gertrude Ederle were alive today, how old would she be? **b**

- a. Less than a 100 years old
- b. **Between 100 and 110 years old**
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3. Which statement about Gertrude Ederle is a fact? **a**

- a. **Gertrude Ederle competed in the Joseph P. Day Cup Race.**
- b. Gertrude Ederle's success shows that women are better swimmers than men.
- c. Gertrude Ederle was the best athlete of the early 1900s.
- d. Gertrude Ederle was an inspirational person.

4. Describe one swimming event mentioned in the passage in which Gertrude Ederle did not succeed.

She did not make it the first time she tried to swim the English Channel in 1925.