

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Wilma Rudolph

**W**ilma Rudolph was a famous track and field star. At one time she was the fastest woman in the world. She worked very hard to overcome challenges.

Wilma was very tiny when she was born. She got sick with an illness called polio when she was five years old. It made one of her legs twisted. The doctors told her she would never walk again, but her mom told her she would. She wore a brace on her leg until she was 12 years old. She would take off the brace and practice walking. After working hard, she was able to run, jump, and play games like everyone else. She even joined a college track team when she was still in high school.

When Wilma was just 16 years old, she qualified for the 1956 Summer Olympics. She traveled to Melbourne, Australia to run track. She competed in a 4x100 meter relay that won a bronze metal. In the 1960 Olympics, she won gold in that relay, as well as the 100- and 200- meter races. Even though Wilma could barely walk when she was younger, she won many gold medals and broke three world records.



1. Put the events in order. Write the numbers 1 to 5 on the lines.

- \_\_\_\_\_ One of Wilma's legs was twisted.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wilma qualified for the 1956 Summer Olympics.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wilma got a disease called polio.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wilma worked hard and was able to run, jump, and walk.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wilma wore a brace on her leg.

2. What is the best definition for *qualified*, as it is used in the passage?

- a. having met specific requirements
- b. changed in some way
- c. to make a statement more specific
- d. to make less harsh or strict

3. How many world records did Wilma break? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Which trait best describes Wilma?

- a. brave
- b. caring
- c. determined
- d. creative

