 Playing the Game – Resource 4

Writing a biography - Cathy Freeman sample

Cathy Freeman - a short biography

Cathy Freeman was born on February 16th, 1973 in Mackay, Queensland. She ran her first race when she was 6. In Grade 1, her teacher told her to run so she did! When she was 10 years old, her stepfather told her she was going to run in the Olympics.

She won her first gold medal when she was 16 years old and was voted Young Australian of the Year.

Then in 1992, Cathy went to the Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain! She was Australia's first Aboriginal athlete to go to the Olympics and she won a silver medal in the 200m race!

Two years later she won more gold medals at the Commonwealth Games in Canada in the 200m and 400m races. She also broke the Australian record for the fastest times in the 200m and 400m races.

In 1996, Cathy was voted Australian Sport Personality of the Year. She was voted Australian of the Year in 1998.

Today Cathy is 27 years old and has won over 30 international races and set 8 Australian records. She is ranked number 1 in the world for the 400m.

Template to organise biography

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of person |  |
| Date of birth |  |
| Date of death/current age  Nationality |  |
| Countries of residence during life |  |
| Family members and relationships |  |
| Education/training |  |
| Special skills/abilities |  |
| Types of employment |  |
| Travel |  |
| Interests |  |
| Personal challenges and how these were resolved |  |

Sentence starters table

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| (Name) was born in (country, district, town) on the (date, month, year). |  |
| He/she came a (type of) family and was the (youngest/eldest) of (number) children. |  |
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| He/she grew up in........... and his/her childhood was............. (why? how long did this last?) |  |
| He/she was a (type of personality) person....(why? how can we see this?) |  |
| When he/she reached the age of.............. (what happened? why? |  |
| He/she was educated at............ (to what level? why?) |  |
| The first significant event in his/her life was when............... |  |
| He/she achieved (a great deal) by.................... (how? when? for whom?) |  |
| (Name) faced some major challenges in his/her life.... (why? how did he/she deal with this?) |  |
| (Name) is prominent in (country’s) history because.... (why?) |  |