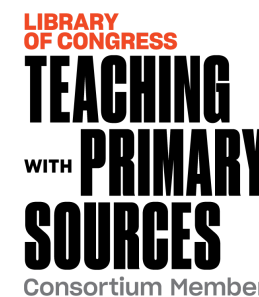


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| 1. Title / Content Area: | Jack Dempsey: The Manassa Mauler |
| 2. Historic Site: | Manassa, CO and various mining towns in Colorado |
| 3. Episode | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ycAXu1pYqJA |
| 3. Developed by: | Sally Purath |
| 4. Grade Level and Standards: | <p><i>Grade Level:</i> 6th - HS</p> <p><i>Standards:</i> Colorado Social Studies Standards 1-4</p> <p><i>Prepared Graduate Competencies:</i></p> <p>Content in this Document Based Question (DBQ) link to Prepared Graduate Competencies in the Colorado Academic Standards</p> <p>6th: PGC 1-5, 7, 8</p> <p>7th: PGC 1-5, 7</p> <p>8th: PGC 1-5, 7</p> <p>HS: PGC 1-5, 7, 8</p> |
| 5. Assessment Question: | How did growing up poor in the tiny town of Manassa, Montrose, and other mining towns in Colorado influence Jack Dempsey to become the world champion in boxing? |
| 6. Contextual Paragraph | Boxing in the early part of the 20 th century was considered to be one of the most popular sports in America and the heavyweight champion a national hero. Jack Dempsey was born into obscure poverty in the tiny Colorado town of Manassa and was a small boy with a high squeaky voice that caused him to be teased terribly. This and his poverty gave him the iron will and ambition to build himself into a skilled fighter. He learned to fight in Montrose as a teenager in the Carriage Works building, but he traveled from 1911-1916 around various mining towns such as Cripple Creek, offering to fight anyone for a dollar, no matter their size, so he had to win or starve. He also worked as a miner swinging a sledgehammer, which built up his arms, shoulders, and endurance. The focal point of boxing was in New York City but after a false start due to a bad manager, he went to Las Angeles, found a |



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| | <p>good manager and started to win. He was very fast, had a savage left hook, and no defense—he just attacked. He became the heavyweight champ in 1919 and was a huge celebrity star in the 1920s along with Babe Ruth. Coloradoans were very proud a local boy was so famous, especially small towns such as De Beque which set up its first battery-powered radio in the IOOF Hall where the town listened to his fights. Gene Tunney took his title away in 1926, and they had a rematch in 1927 but after the famous “long count” where Dempsey knocked Tunney down but didn’t go to his corner immediately, giving Tunney 14 instead of 10 seconds to recover, Tunney beat Dempsey. Afterward, Dempsey opened a NYC restaurant and was admired for his lack of bitterness and generosity.</p> | |
| <p>7. Connection to Historic Preservation</p> | <p>The IOOF Hall in De Beque, Colorado was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1993 for its social history of recreational use and architecture. It is currently vacant and not in use.</p> <p>The Carriage House in Montrose, Colorado where young Dempsey trained was once listed on the National Register of Historic Places but was removed after it was moved and rebuilt with only 25% original materials remaining. A State Historical Fund grant helped recreate the exterior appearance of the façade.</p> <p>The log cabin in Manassa where Dempsey was born has been turned into a museum and contains many films, photos, and artifacts about him.</p> | |

Document Based Question (DBQ)

Document Set

IIOF Hall in De Beque, Colorado where the first battery-powered radio in town broadcast Jack Dempsey's fights connecting the community to him in the early 1920s



<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/84131764>

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. Why would Jack Dempsey's fights be so important to the people in a little town in Colorado?
2. How does this IOOF Hall, entered into the National Register of Historic Places in 1993, exemplify the importance of entertainment and social connection in small town America in the 1920s?

Carriage Works in Montrose, Colorado where young Dempsey trained



<https://www.historycolorado.org/location/carriage-works>

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. How could a poor young athlete in 1900-1920 be able to train and fight to make a living in rural areas?
2. **Look closely at this building. What could it be used for?**

Jack Dempsey vs. Gene Tunney on the long count
1927



[https://boxrec.com/media/index.php/Gene_Tunney_vs._Jack_Dempsey_\(2nd_meeting\)](https://boxrec.com/media/index.php/Gene_Tunney_vs._Jack_Dempsey_(2nd_meeting))

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. What factors helped to make boxing an enormously popular sport in the 1920s compared to its less popularity today?
2. **Why would small communities want to support boxing as a sport?**

Log cabin made into a museum in Manassa,
Colorado where Jack Dempsey was born



<https://urgguide.com/jack-dempsey-museum/>

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. Why has Jack Dempsey continued to be so revered in Manassa, Colorado?
2. **How does his story contribute to the history of this town?**

Conejos County



<https://coloradoencyclopedia.org/article/conejos-county>

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. What factors have made Conejos country less economically prosperous than much of Colorado and what has been done to enhance the economy?

Assessment Question

How did Jack Dempsey's childhood of poverty and hard work in Colorado inspire him to become one of the top two sports celebrities in the 1920s?.

Response