



Kerri Strug | Worksheet

Use the Sports Legends Biography “Kerri Strug” to answer the following.

Part 1: Quick Facts

Date of Birth and Location: _____

Chosen Sport: _____

Facts about Strug: Choose one fact for each of the following areas to write below.

- Road to Barcelona:

- More Heartbreak:

- Kerri’s Moment (July 23, 1996):

- Life of Service:

Part 2: Vocabulary Words - Choose three words from the Glossary on p. 20 to define.

1. _____: _____

2. _____: _____

3. _____: _____

Part 3: Reading Comprehension

1. What motivated Kerri Strug to perform her second vault at the 1996 Olympics despite being injured?

2. List some of the injuries Kerri Strug faced during her gymnastics career.



3. Describe Kerri Strug's achievements and activities after retiring from gymnastics. Include details about her education, career, and involvement in public service.

Part 4: Discussion & Critical Thinking

1. Kerri Strug demonstrated incredible perseverance by completing her second vault at the 1996 Olympics. Why do you think it's important to push through challenges and not give up, even when the situation seems dire?

2. How might the other teams competing against the U.S. have felt in watching Strug push through her injury and stick the vault landing?

Part 5: Creative Corner

Think about a time when you faced a significant challenge like Kerri Strug did at the 1996 Olympics. Write a short description of that experience. Consider these questions to help you:

- What was the challenge?
- Why was it important to you?
- What did you do to overcome it?
- What was the outcome?

Your Story:

Comprehension and Multiple Choice

(This section's questions correspond to the Guess or Mess episode. Play along!)

Circle the best answer or write the response on the line for each of the following questions.

1. How does Kerri Strug describe her personality as a child?
 - a. Quiet and shy
 - b. Loud and obnoxious
 - c. Angry and aggressive

2. Strug was on the U.S. Women's Gymnastics team for which two Olympic Games?
 - a. 1988 and 1992
 - b. 1992 and 1996
 - c. 1996 and 2000

3. Why was Strug so disappointed at the 1992 Olympic Games?
 - a. She got injured during the Games.
 - b. She forgot her lucky coin.
 - c. She didn't make the all-around competition.

4. What health issue did Strug not deal with before the 1996 Olympic Games?
 - a. Back Spasms
 - b. Asthma
 - c. Fainting spells

5. During which gymnastics event did Strug demonstrate resilience by overcoming an ankle injury to win the gold in the 1996 Olympics?
 - a. Vault
 - b. Beam
 - c. Bars

6. What nickname did fans use for Strug and her six teammates during the 1996 Olympics?

7. After retiring from gymnastics, Strug attended college at UCLA and then worked for which U.S. president?

8. Ever since becoming famous at the 1996 Olympics, Strug has spent her life serving others through teaching, public service, and _____.
 - a. Philosophy
 - b. Philanthropy
 - c. Pharmacology

Patriot Pop Quiz:

1. What famous imperfection can you see on the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania?
 - a. A crack
 - b. A stain
 - c. A spelling error

2. Before declaring its independence in 1776, America was a cluster of British Colonies. How many colonies were there?

Kerri Strug | Answer Key

Part 1: Quick Facts

Date of Birth and Location: **November 19, 1977, in Tucson, Arizona**

Chosen Sport: **Gymnastics - vault and uneven parallel bars**

Facts about Strug: Choose one fact for each of the following areas to write below.

Accept reasonable answers. The following are examples.

- **Road to Barcelona:** At age 14, Kerri was the youngest American gymnast to compete in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.
- **More Heartbreak:** Kerri suffered a severe stomach muscle tear and a stress fracture in her back, leading to significant setbacks.
- **Kerri's Moment (July 23, 1996):** Despite a severe ankle injury, Kerri performed a second vault, securing the gold medal for Team USA.
- **Life of Service:** After gymnastics, Kerri earned master's degrees and worked in public service for the U.S. government.

Part 2: Vocabulary Words - Choose three words from the Glossary on p. 20 to define.

Accept words taken from page 20. The following are examples.

1. **Stress Fracture:** A small crack in a bone.
2. **Spasm:** A sudden, involuntary movement.
3. **Resilient:** Able to bounce back from a difficult situation.

Part 3: Reading Comprehension

1. What motivated Kerri Strug to perform her second vault at the 1996 Olympics despite being injured?

(Example Answer): Kerri believed the gold medal was at stake and wanted to secure the victory for Team USA, despite her severe ankle injury.

2. List some of the injuries Kerri Strug faced during her gymnastics career.

(Example Answer): Kerri suffered a severe stomach muscle tear, a stress fracture in her back, and a severe ankle sprain.

3. Describe Kerri Strug's achievements and activities after retiring from gymnastics. Include details about her education, career, and involvement in public service.

(Example Answer): After retiring, Kerri attended UCLA and later Stanford University, earning master's degrees in communications and social psychology. She worked for President George W. Bush's administration in various departments and has been involved in several charitable organizations, focusing on helping those in need.

Part 4: Discussion & Critical Thinking

1. Kerri Strug demonstrated incredible perseverance and courage by completing her second vault at the 1996 Olympics despite a severe ankle injury. Why do you think it's important to push through challenges and not give up, even when the situation seems dire?

(Example Answer): It is important to push through challenges because it builds character, resilience, and the ability to overcome obstacles. Not giving up can lead to personal growth and the achievement of significant goals.

2. How might the other teams competing against the U.S. have felt in watching Strug push through her injury and stick the vault landing?

(Example Answer): The other teams might have felt a mix of admiration and intimidation, recognizing Kerri's determination and the high level of competition they were facing.

Part 5: Creative Corner

Think about a time when you faced a significant challenge like Kerri Strug did at the 1996 Olympics. Write a short description of that experience. Consider these questions to help you:

- What was the challenge?
- Why was it important to you?
- What did you do to overcome it?
- What was the outcome?

Your Story:

(Responses will vary)

Guess or Mess Episode Play Along:

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 - a. Quiet and shy
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2. Strug was on the U.S. Women's Gymnastics team for which two Olympic Games?
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 - a. Vault
 - b. Beam
 - c. Bars
6. What nickname did fans use for Strug and her six teammates during the 1996 Olympics?

The Magnificent Seven
7. After retiring from gymnastics, Strug attended college at UCLA and then worked for which U.S. president?

George W. Bush
8. Ever since becoming famous at the 1996 Olympics, Strug has spent her life serving others through teaching, public service, and _____.
 - a. Philosophy
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