

**24th & Glory Video Questions**

**Answer Key**

***Bellwork:***

Define the word **“race”** by looking up the meaning on your cell phone and write it below:

***Race****: Race is defined as “a category of humankind that shares certain distinctive physical traits.”*

**Segment 1 – Beginning to 6:35**

**Themes:** Omaha Athletes from North Omaha.

1. Fill in the following chart by writing the sport and the college/professional teams these legendary athletes are most famous for playing for:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Athlete | Sport | College/Professional Team |
| Bob Gibson | Baseball  | **St. Louis Cardinals**  |
| Bob Boozer | Basketball  | **Chicago Bulls**/Milwaukee Bucks/Seattle Supersonics/Cincinnati Royals/Ney York Knicks/LA Lakers  |
| Roger Sayers | Track  | **Omaha University** now known as the University of Nebraska at Omaha  |
| Gale Sayers | Football  | **Chicago Bears** |
| Marlin Briscoe | Football  | **Denver Broncos**  |
| Ron Boone | Basketball  | **Dallas Chaparrals (today's San Antonio Spurs**/Kansas City Kings/LA Lakers/Utah Jazz  |
| Johnny Rodgers | Football  | **University of Nebraska at Lincoln**  |

**Discuss how Omaha’s Black athletes are now spread across Omaha. What changed?**

*Once the Fair Housing Act was passed in 1968, African Americans could not be restricted to purchasing homes throughout Omaha. Those that could move out of the North Omaha area. Riots in 1966, 1968 and 1969 and the resulting destruction and shuttered businesses also encouraged people to leave Omaha’s Near North side.*

**Segment 2 6:35 to 14:41**

**Themes:** Great Migration. Stockyards. Jim Crow laws in Omaha. Racial Incidents

2. Explain the purpose of the ***Great* Migration** during World War I.

*During World War I, men were called to fight in the war. Northern companies encouraged African Americans to migrate from the South to take the jobs the men left behind. Black people were encouraged to leave the South for better jobs, better schools and to escape the Jim Crow laws of the South.*

3. What was the significance of Omaha during the migration?

*African Americans came to Omaha to work mainly for the Union Stockyards and the packing houses. Ranchers from all over the Great Plains converged on Omaha to sell their cattle, hogs, and sheep. In 1955 Omaha eclipsed Chicago as the busiest livestock market in the country. While the work was hard the pay allowed Black families to have a good, middle-class life in Omaha.*

4. What was North Omaha’s version of ***Jim Crow Laws***?

*In the 24th and Glory video, Dan Goodwin Sr. refers to Omaha in the 1950s and 1960s as Mississippi North. Black people had hoped for a more hospitable environment than what they experienced in the South but instead experienced the North’s version of Jim Crow. Most corporations and industries would not hire them. Restaurants and theaters would not serve them or put them in non-desirable areas. Even doctors refused to see them.*

5. What are at least ***2-3 racial incidents*** the speakers witnessed or experienced as young adults?

*Dan Goodwin Sr. – A cop stopped me and told me to get out of my car. That he wanted to search it. I asked, “Do you have a search warrant?” He jammed a gun to my head and said, “This is my search warrant?”*

*Bob Boozer and his Black friends swam in the downtown YMCA. The pool was immediately drained once they got out of the pool.*

*Ben Gray – When I was 11 years old my older sister’s house was burned and a cross placed in her yard.*

*John Beasley – Eight cop cars were surrounding this (Black) guy down on the ground. He was handcuffed and they were spraying mace in his face. John’s younger brother, who was with him, confronted the police but they raised a rifle at him, and they both knew to get away.*

*Brenda Council – I can remember seeing on our families black and white TV the dogs and the water hoses let loose on the African Americans protesting in Birmingham Alabama (in 1963).*

**Segment 3 14:41 – 21:44**

**Themes:** Josh Gibson and other father figures. School Segregation. Civil Rights. Fair Housing.

6. Finish this sentence: Prior to the 1970s, *Omaha Public Schools didn’t hire high school Black \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Teachers and Coaches*

7. What was the alternative route when Josh Gibson was not allowed to coach in the school district?

*Through his work with the Near North YMCA and the Kellom Recreational Center he created the biggest P.E. class in Omaha. Hundreds of kids participated in sports – boxing, badminton, baseball, basketball, volleyball, and many others. Josh Gibson started and coached the championship YMCA Monarchs baseball team featuring his younger brother Bob and other kids who would later become all-star athletes.*

8. What did Former State Legislator Brenda Council say was the reason that North Omaha produced such great athletes?

*Great adults who agreed to be great volunteer coaches for these kids.*

9. According to the video, why is a “father figure” important?

*These father figures were influential mentors. They produced so many great athletes and knew how to be a father to Black boys.*

10. Athletes Bob Boozer and Bob Gibson both had a challenging time purchasing homes in Omaha’s suburbs. Why? Did the accolades he earned as an athlete matter? Why?

*White homeowners did not want to live next to a Black family. Concerned their property values would go down. Despite being accomplished athletes and having the financial means to purchase homes, it was difficult. Gibson purchased a home in District 66’s Rockbrook area where his girls attended Rockbrook Elementary. He later settled in Bellevue.*

*From the 24th and Glory Book …*

*“How do they have a right to sit on their fat mortgages and dictate whether I can move into the neighborhood?” said Boozer, whose annual NBA salary exceeded the cost of new construction. “If I could become white overnight, any community in Omaha would welcome me with open arms.”*

**Segment 4 21:44 to End**

**Themes:**  George Wallace. Riots in North Omaha. North Freeway. Open Housing. Will Brown Lynching.

11. Who was George Wallace?

*Former Alabama Governor. Third Party Presidential Candidate in 1968. Chief spokesperson for segregation.*

12. What initiated the three nights of rioting in North Omaha 1968?

*Through the 1960s Wallace inflamed violence across the South. George Wallace’s speech at the Omaha Civic Auditorium incited a melee in the crowd and spilled out onto the Near North Side, a mile away.*

13. What were some things that happened to change what North Omaha looked like?

*Businesses vandalized and eventually closed because of the riots.*

*Omaha City Planners through Federal funds put the North Freeway through North Omaha displacing thousands of homes and people.*

*The Stockyards, an economic livelihood for Black men, closed.*

14. What happened to the South Omaha packing house in the 1960s?

*The 80-year-old packing houses closed, and smaller automated plants were built in rural towns, closer to the livestock. Unemployment for Black men surged and new jobs they found did not pay as well.*

15. During the Omaha Race Riot of 1919, William “Willie” Brown was lynched. What were the actions the White mob took to show their disgust before burning his body?

*Burned and vandalized the Douglas County Courthouse. Found and lynched Will Brown. Tied him to the back of an automobile and dragged him around downtown ending at 17th and Dodge streets where they burned his body.*

16. How do you think there is ***“opportunity for new life”*** in soil?

From the video:

*The soil contains the blood of those who labored to the indignation of slavery. In this soil is the sweat of those who fought during the era of the Civil Rights movement. There is an opportunity for new life in this soil. Through this soil we can concretize the memory of Mr. Brown.*

*From Ben Gray – When we have mobs of people with Tiki Torches and sounds of White power today, we must do something about that.*

17. What day is observed as Will Brown Day?

*September 28. On this day in 1919 Will Brown was lynched.*

18. Why do the citizens of North Omaha feel obligated to move forward?

*Goodwin - Our kids deserve a future.*

*Beasley - The community will never be what it was,*

*Ben Gray There will always be people trying to set us back but if we allow them to win then at what point was all this work (not worth it). At what point was 24th and Glory something to celebrate if we don’t move forward. We stand on the shoulders of all those people. All those people made a difference, and we stand on those shoulders, and we have an obligation to continue to move forward. We have an obligation to strive to seek a better understanding like Martin (Luther King) talked about.*

*Bartee - I will go to my grave that if we don’t get the family structure back to where it needs to be then we’ll forever be our own worst enemy.*

*Love – My hope is that we want to return to a unified community without poverty, which we would then begin to plant and produce all kinds of superstars. We can attribute athletes like Gale Sayers to the soil of our community at that time.*