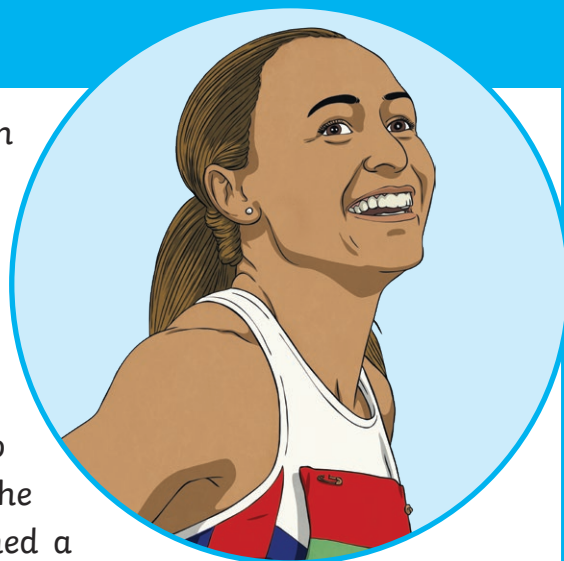


Jessica Ennis-Hill

Jessica Ennis-Hill was born 28 January 1986 in Sheffield, England.

Childhood

Jessica grew up in Sheffield with her father, her mother and her younger sister, Carmel. She came from a sporty background, with her parents both involved in athletics whilst at school. They introduced her to athletics by taking her to a local sports camp during the 1996 school summer holidays. Shortly after, she joined a local athletics club, which she still competes for today.



At the age of 13, she had her first coaching session with Toni Minichiello. They decided that she should take part in the heptathlon - seven events made up of the 100 metre hurdles, high jump, shot-put, 200 metres, long jump, javelin, and 800 metres. Toni and Jessica continued to work together right through her time at school and university. By 2004, Jessica was known as one of Britain's top junior athletes. Her trainer was extremely confident that she would go on to win a major event in the future.

Achievements

In 2008, Jessica was chosen to represent Team GB at the Olympic Games in Beijing. However, just three months before the Olympics were due to begin, Jessica broke her right foot. As a result, she had to miss the Olympic Games. Determined to make up for her disappointment, Jessica prepared for many years for the London 2012 Olympics. At the end of the first day of competition, Jessica had scored her highest ever first-day total.

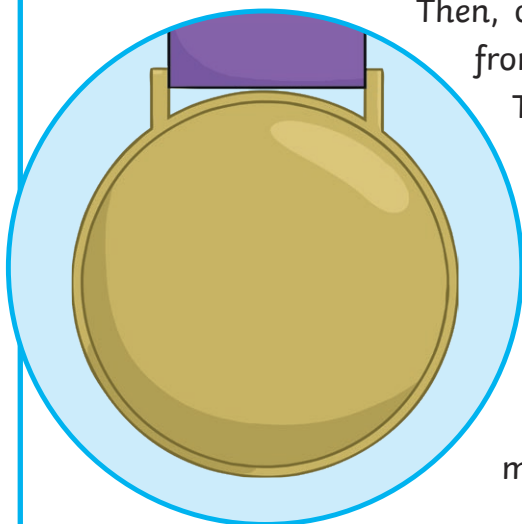
Then, on day two, she went on to win the 800 metres race, in front of thousands of cheering fans, to claim her gold medal.

The night she won later became known as 'Super Saturday'.

After her big win, she was quoted as saying, "I told myself at the start that I'm only going to have one moment to do this in front of a crowd in London and I just wanted to give them a good show." She did!

Life after London 2012

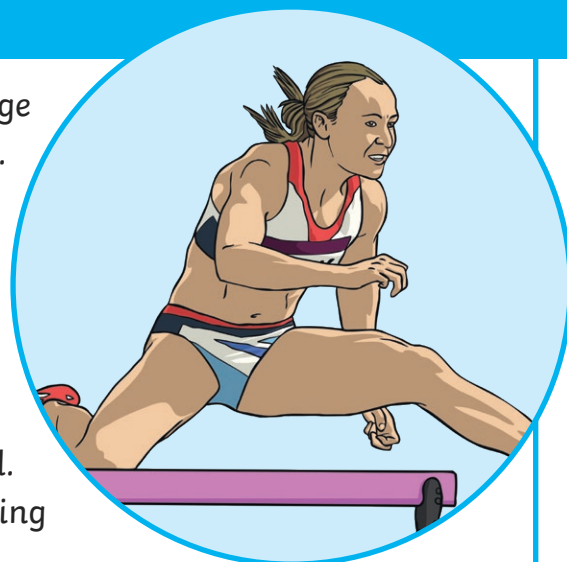
After London 2012, Jessica's gold medal was honoured in many ways including the placing of a gold post box in her



Jessica Ennis-Hill

hometown of Sheffield, being featured on a special postage stamp and receiving an MBE from Her Majesty, The Queen. Jessica competed in the Rio 2016 Olympic games, hoping to retain her title. Sadly however, she won the silver medal and returned home disappointed. Shortly after, she made the decision to retire from athletics.

Jessica has always tried to help a specific charity that is close to her heart, Sheffield Children's Hospital Fund. Recently, she was voted Great Britain's favourite sporting hero in a poll conducted by Sport Relief.



Amazing Fact!

At just 5'4" tall, Jessica is one of the smallest competitors ever on the heptathlon circuit. Her GB team-mate and long-time friend, Kelly Sotherton, nicknamed her 'tadpole' as she never grew!

Olympic Games	Medals
2012 London Games:	Gold medal (Women's heptathlon)
2016 Rio Games:	Silver medal (Women's heptathlon)

Jessica Ennis-Hill Questions

Answer the following questions using full sentences that give as much detail as possible.

1. Where and when was Jessica born?

2. How did her parents first introduce her to athletics?

3. Name the seven events that make up the heptathlon.

4. Why do you think Jessica's trainer advised her to take up the heptathlon?

5. What stopped Jessica competing in the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games?

6. How do you think Jessica felt at that time? Why?

7. List one way that Jessica's London 2012 Olympic achievement was recognised in Great Britain.

8. The night Jessica won her gold medal was later nicknamed 'Super Saturday'. Conduct some research on the Internet to find out what else happened on that special night.
