Molly Brown House Museum: Junior Historian

Welcome, Junior Historians!

Today we are going to learn about Carl Howelsen and Skiing in Colorado!

In the mid to late 1800s, miners would use skis to travel from one town to another in the snowy Rocky Mountains. Skis were called “Norwegian snowshoes” and were brought here by Norwegian immigrants.

In 1905, Carl Howelsen, a ski jumper and cross country skier immigrated to the United States from Norway.

Carl was discovered by Barnum and Bailey Circus and became a performer on the 80 foot ski jump.

In 1914, Carl came to Steamboat Springs and organized the first Winter Carnival with competitive ski events like cross-country skiing and ski jumping.
In 1917, the hill where the yearly carnival and ski jumping competition took place was named “Howelsen Hill” after Carl.

Because of Carl, Steamboat Springs and Colorado became a training destination for Olympic athletes and a winter sport destination.

For more information on Carl Howelsen and Howelsen Hill visit:

US Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame

Tread of Pioneers Museum

Howelsen Hill

Join us next month for another...
Ski jumping is a winter sport where competitors try to achieve the longest jump from going down a specially designed ramp on skis. Ski jumping competitions originated in Norway in the early 19th century. Make your own miniature ski jump jumper and ramp and jumper at home to see how far your skier can go!

Materials:
1 long cardboard tube
2 popsicle sticks
1 clothes pin
markers
pennies
tape or glue

Instructions:
1. Cut the cardboard paper tube in half length wise. Bend it to lay flat.
2. Elevate the tube by placing it on the edge of a sofa or chair. Try different elevations!
3. Glue the legs of the clothes pin to the popsicle sticks.
4. Draw a face on the clothes pin and decorate the skis.
5. Test out your ski jumper on the paper ramp. How far did it go?
6. Add pennies to the clothes pin or skis to see if your ski jumper can go faster or farther with more weight.