

Read this biography of Sir Jack Brabham, written by Stephanie Lanston of Macgregor Primary School, then answer the questions.

Jack Brabham was the first Australian to win the world Formula 1 drivers' championship.

Jack was born in Sydney in 1926. He left school to work in a garage and when he was 18 he joined the air force. Jack loved cars and his experience as a mechanic led him to motor racing. He began racing midget cars in 1947 and was very successful. In 1953 he was given the opportunity to drive a much faster car - a Cooper-Bristol. He won the Australian, South Australian and New South Wales speedway titles. In 1955, Jack went to England to gain more experience. Here he was able to take part in many different types of races. During the next few years, Jack drove some cars that were designed by John Cooper. When John Cooper decided to enter his Cooper Climax cars in world championship races, he asked Jack to drive for him. In that year, 1959, Jack became the first Australian to win the Formula 1 world championship. He won the championship again in 1960. Then again in 1966 Jack won the world title for the third time in a car he designed himself.

Sir Jack Brabham is today a very successful businessman whose sons are also involved in motor sport.

1. Where did Jack first begin work? _____
2. Which speedway titles did Jack win? _____

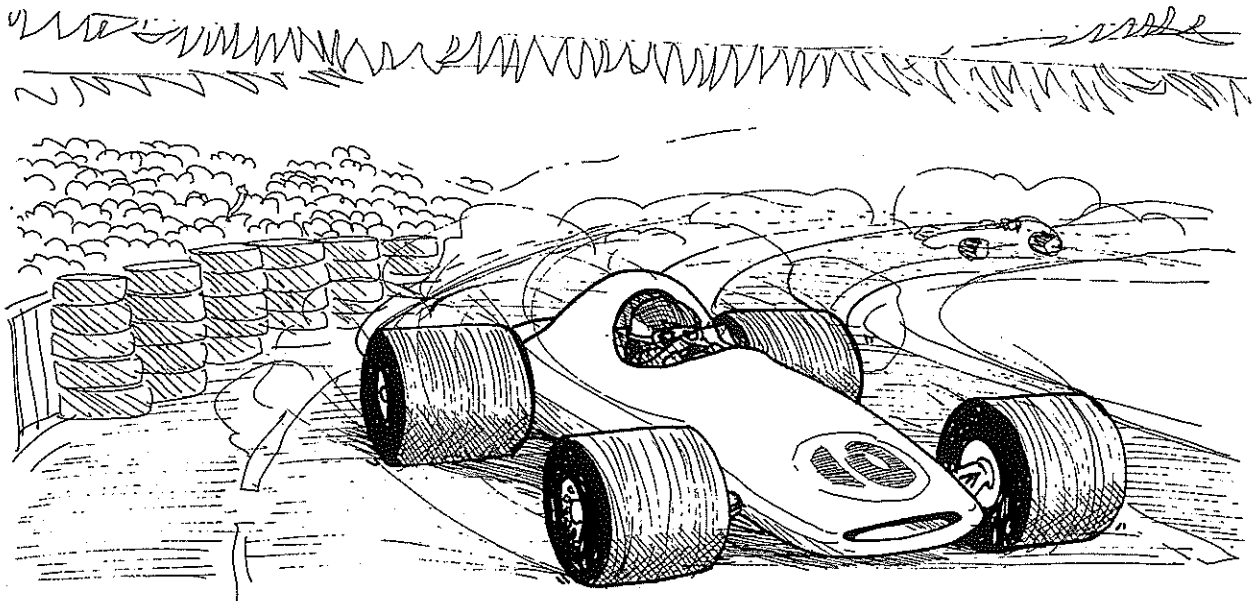
3. Why did Jack go to England? _____
4. What did John Cooper decide to do in 1959? _____

5. Write the meanings of these words in the biography.
 - a. experience _____

 - b. designed _____

 - c. midget _____

 - d. involved _____



6. Did the biography state or indicate these points? Answer yes or no.
- Jack Brabham stayed overseas for 20 years. _____
 - Cooper Climax cars won races all over the world. _____
 - The third title Jack won was in his own car. _____
 - Jack travelled to New Zealand to drive midget cars. _____
7. The following sentences are about events in Jack Brabham's life. Number them from one to five in the order in which they occurred.
- His first world championship was in a Cooper Climax car. _____
 - Three speedway titles were won. _____
 - Jack joined the air force. _____
 - John Cooper decided to enter his car in the Formula 1 world championship. _____
 - Jack was given the opportunity to drive a Cooper-Bristol. _____
8. Why are these dates important?
- 1955 _____
 - 1947 _____
 - 1960 _____
 - 1966 _____

FOLLOW-UP

Stephanie's biography includes the following:

- Introductory statement: who he was, why he was famous and where he was born
- Important dates and events in the sportsman's life in sequence

Write a short biography on another famous Australian.