

The History of the Olympics

UNIT OVERVIEW

The “*Let’s Go to the Olympics*” unit looks at general information about the Olympic Games. Students study the information about the Olympic Games as they read the newspaper articles and charts that are included in this unit. Students practice using different reading, writing, research, and language arts skills as they complete the activities in the “*Let’s Go to the Olympics*” unit. This unit is divided into three sections. Section One includes a series of lessons designed to provide students with interesting facts and information about the Olympic Games. Section Two includes a number of optional lessons that teachers can use to supplement the main lessons of the unit. Section Three provides a suggestion for a major project that the students can complete during the unit or when they have finished the main lessons of the unit. A book display should be set up somewhere in the classroom. A wide variety of books on the Olympic Games and the different sporting events should be included in the display. Students refer to the books during the course of the unit.

SECTION I – LESSONS

Section I contains ten structured lessons dealing with general aspects of the Olympic Games. Students read a series of newspaper articles, research different sources, and use a number of different charts to complete the activities of these lessons.

- 1) Ancient Olympics
- 2) First Modern Olympic Games
- 3) Olympic Sporting Events
- 4) Discontinued Olympic Sporting Events
- 5) Host Cities
- 6) Olympic Symbols
- 7) Opening and Closing Ceremonies
- 8) Olympians
- 9) Olympic Villages
- 10) International Olympic Committee (IOC)



SECTION II – OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

The optional activities provide teachers with flexibility in teaching the unit. They can replace activities in the main lessons, be used as review, or provide students with enrichment.

- 1) Classroom Visit
- 2) Write a Letter/E-mail
- 3) Create a Game
- 4) Research
- 5) Elect Class IOC President
- 6) Olympic Website
- 7) Write a Song or Poem
- 8) Research Sporting Event
- 9) Olympic Survey
- 10) Sample Exam

SECTION III – MAJOR PROJECT

The major project can be completed by the students individually, with a partner, or in small groups. Different activities for completing the project are provided in order to individualize the project and take into account the different learning styles of students.

- 1) City Proposal

REFERENCES

Name: _____

Dear Diary,

OLYMPIC NEWS

Volume 1 Issue 2 – First Modern Olympic Games



OLYMPICS REVIVED IN 1896

1500 years after the final Ancient Olympic Games, the first modern Olympic Games were held. Baron Pierre de Coubertin of France was the man responsible for reviving the Olympic Games. He loved amateur sports and wanted every athlete in every country to have the opportunity to compete in the Olympic Games. He wanted the Olympics to be fair to all athletes. Baron Pierre de Coubertin also liked the idea of the Olympic Games promoting peace among all the countries of the world.

FIRST MODERN OLYMPIC GAMES HELD IN ATHENS, GREECE

The first modern Olympic Games were declared open on the afternoon

of April 6, 1896. They were declared open by King George I and took place in Athens, Greece. There were 245 athletes who took part in the Olympic Games. The athletes were all men and were from 14 different countries. Most of the athletes were from Greece, Germany, and France. The Olympic Games involved 9 different events. The events included: athletics, cycling, fencing, gymnastics, shooting, swimming, tennis, weightlifting, and wrestling. Winners of each event received an olive branch, a certificate, and a silver medal. Second place finishers in each event received a laurel sprig and a copper medal.

GEORGIOS AVERNOFF DONATES ONE MILLION DRACHMA TO OLYMPIC GAMES REVIVAL

Georgios Avernoff was a wealthy Greek businessman. He donated one million drachma to the first modern Olympic Games. The Greek Organizing Committee used his donation to help reconstruct the **Panathenaic Stadium** in Athens. The stadium was originally built in 330 BC. In addition to receiving donations, the Greek Organizing Committee sold souvenirs and postage stamps to raise money for the first modern Olympic Games.

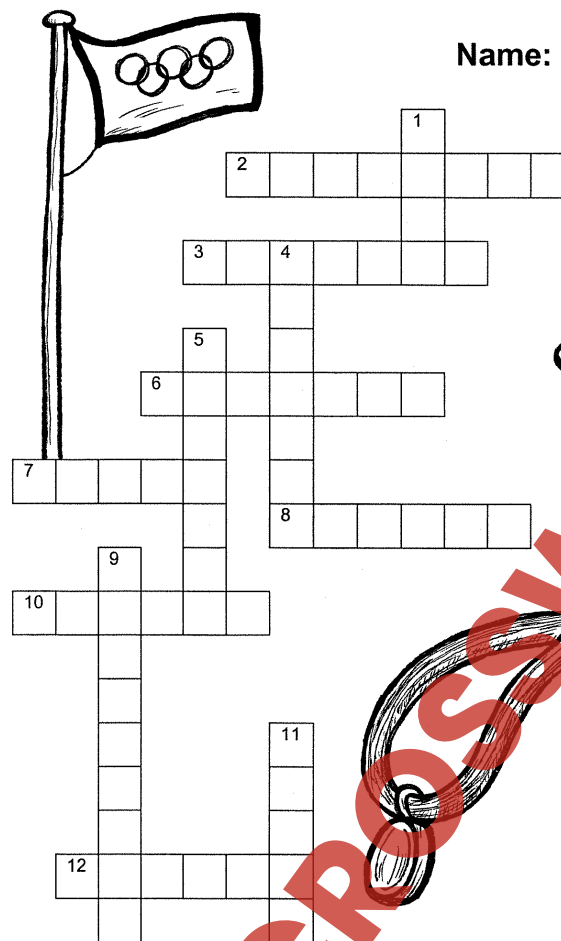
OLYMPIC FACT OR OPINION

Name: _____

- The first modern Olympic Games should have been held in Paris, France. **fact** **opinion**
- King George I declared the first modern Olympic Games open on April 6, 1896. **fact** **opinion**
- The Greek Organizing Committee sold stamps and souvenirs to raise money for the first modern Olympic Games. **fact** **opinion**
- Georgios Avernoff wanted to be known as the man who donated the most money to the first modern Olympic Games. **fact** **opinion**
- The Panathenaic Stadium in Athens was built in 330 BC. **fact** **opinion**
- The athletes who won events at the first modern Olympic Games wanted to receive gold medals instead of silver medals. **fact** **opinion**
- Baseball should have been included as a sport in the first modern Olympic Games. **fact** **opinion**
- More than 245 athletes should have been allowed to compete at the Olympic Games. **fact** **opinion**
- There were nine sporting events at the first modern Olympic Games. **fact** **opinion**
- Women did not compete in the first modern Olympic Games. **fact** **opinion**

OLYMPIC CEREMONIES CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Name: _____



- anthem
closing
country
flagpole
flame
Greece
lowered
open
opening
parade
President
three

DOWN

- 1 The Head of State declares the Olympics _____.
- 4 The _____ ceremonies signal the start of the Olympic Games.
- 5 The Olympic flag is _____ from the flagpole during the closing ceremony.
- 9 The _____ of the IOC declares the Olympics closed.
- 11 The Olympic _____ is lit during the opening ceremony.

ACROSS

- 2 The Olympic flag is hung on a _____ during the opening ceremony
- 3 The _____ ceremonies signal the end of the Olympic Games.
- 6 Athletes from the host _____ end the athlete's parade.
- 7 _____ flags are hung during the closing ceremony.
- 8 Athletes from _____ lead the athletes' parade.
- 10 Athletes _____ into the Olympic stadium behind a flag-bearer carrying their national flag.
- 12 The Olympic flame is extinguished while the Olympic _____ is played.

OLYMPIC SURVEY QUESTION:

Survey Results for Grade _____ Classroom _____

Sport	Tally	Total
Other		

OLYMPIC OVERVIEW

Name: _____

A. Answer the following questions in complete sentences:

- What are the two main reasons for holding the Olympic Games?

- In what year were the first modern Olympic Games held?

- What does the Latin motto '*Citius, Altius, Fortius*' mean?

- What are the colours of the five rings on the Olympic flag?

- Who has the highest authority for making decisions at the Olympics?

C. Fill in the blanks with the correct Summer sport from the box.

anthem athletes drachma	four friendship olive Olympians	opening supervise villages
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- Georgios Avernoff donated one million _____ to the first modern Olympic Games.
- The _____ competing at the 1896 Summer Olympic Games were all men.
- Winners at the first modern Olympic Games received an _____ branch, a certificate, and a silver medal.
- The Olympic _____ was composed by Spiros Samara.
- The Olympic flame is a sign of _____ among the Olympic athletes.
- The Olympic flame is lit during the _____ ceremonies.
- The Olympic Games are held every _____ years.
- Olympic athletes are called _____.
- The IOC was formed to _____ the organization of the Olympic Games.
- Most Olympic _____ are located near the sites of the sporting events.

CONTRACT

Name of City: _____

Group Member(s): _____

Name of Activity	Mark Value	Comments

Teacher Signature: _____

Group Signature(s): _____

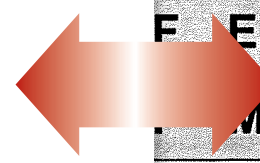
OLYMPIC SPORTING EVENTS WORD SEARCH

Name: _____

A	E	R	U	T	X	C	N	G	E	O	G	G	F	W	N	T	B	L	F	P
T	P	T	U	U	U	O	H	G	N	N	N	X	S	O	H	N	H	V	Z	E
S	I	P	L	R	L	O	U	G	I	I	F	G	C	C	O	J	N	B	Q	N
D	H	S	L	H	C	L	N	D	T	X	X	Z	V	O	Y	T	P	L	M	T
U	K	I	T	K	H	I	R	A	Y	F	D	O	Q	U	G	I	B	L	A	A
V	N	A	E	N	L	A	K	R	X	K	Y	R	B	E	P	O	N	A	Q	T
G	I	Y	I	T	O	S	S	S	T	K	V	O	M	K	B	S	O	B	L	H
B	D	W	S	B	G	Y	M	N	A	S	T	I	C	S	A	A	R	T	M	L
Q	E	E	W	G	V	H	Z	U	O	T	N	U	L	N	W	I	D	E	W	O
P	R	O	N	O	L	H	T	A	I	R	T	E	J	U	L	L	I	K	I	N
W	N	F	E	N	C	I	N	G	Q	L	D	N	W	P	Z	I	C	S	K	Z
S	W	I	M	M	I	N	G	G	N	I	I	K	S	K	E	N	I	A	Y	Q
D	S	W	H	R	M	N	O	T	E	L	E	K	S	X	S	G	G	B	N	B

OLYMPIC SPORTING EVENTS WORD SEARCH

R	U	T	X	C	N	G	E	O	G	G	F	W	N	T	B	L	F	P
T	U	U	U	O	H	G	N	N	N	X	S	O	H	N	H	V	Z	E
P	L	R	L	O	U	G	I	I	F	G	C	C	O	J	N	B	Q	N
S	L	H	C	L	N	D	T	X	X	Z	V	O	Y	T	P	L	M	T
I	T	K	H	I	R	A	Y	F	D	O	Q	U	G	I	B	L	A	A
A	E	N	L	A	K	R	X	K	Y	R	B	E	P	O	N	A	Q	T
Y	I	T	O	S	S	S	T	K	V	O	M	K	B	S	O	B	L	H
W	S	B	G	Y	M	N	A	S	T	I	C	S	A	A	R	T	M	L
E	W	G	V	H	Z	U	O	T	N	U	L	N	W	I	D	E	W	O
O	N	O	L	H	T	A	I	R	T	E	J	U	L	L	I	K	I	N
F	E	N	C	I	N	G	Q	L	D	N	W	P	Z	I	C	S	K	Z
M	M	I	N	G	G	N	I	I	K	S	K	E	N	I	A	Y	Q	
W	H	R	M	N	O	T	E	L	E	K	S	X	S	G	G	B	N	B



ANSWER KEY

- BASKETBALL
- BIATHLON
- BOBSLED
- BOXING
- CURLING
- FENCING
- FOOTBALL
- GYMNASTICS
- HOCKEY
- LUGE

- NORDIC
- PENTATHLON
- SAILING
- SKATING
- SKELETON
- SKIING
- SNOWBOARDING
- SWIMMING
- TRIATHLON
- WRESTLING

