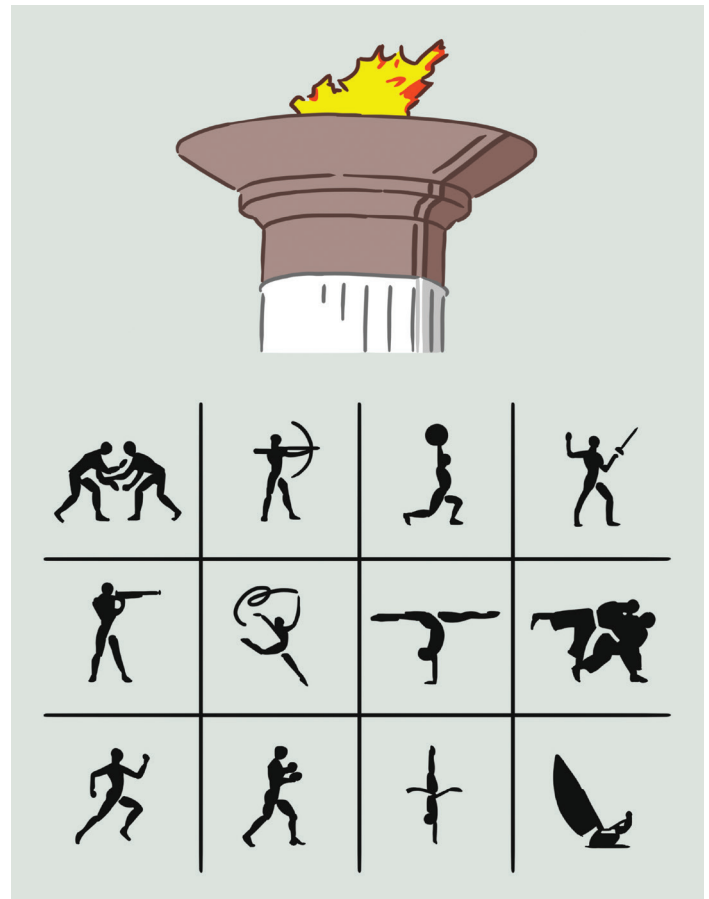


The Olympics

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Do you like to play sports?
If so, what sports do you play?
2. Do you watch the Olympic Games on television? How many people do you think watch the televised games?
3. Do you know when the first Olympic Games were held?
4. How often do the Olympic Games take place?
5. Do you know when women started to compete in the Olympic Games?



B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| ___ 1. event | a) a person who takes part in sports |
| ___ 2. local | b) to start or establish an organization or business |
| ___ 3. compete | c) an occurrence, a planned activity |
| ___ 4. chariot | d) to break, to damage, to make useless |
| ___ 5. emperor | e) in the area |
| ___ 6. athlete | f) a cart pulled by horses |
| ___ 7. destroy | g) taking turns |
| ___ 8. courage | h) to take part in a contest |
| ___ 9. found | i) bravery, not being afraid |
| ___ 10. in rotation | j) a ruler of an empire |

Reading

1. The Olympic Games are a series of international sporting **events** that are hosted in different cities around the world. Summer and Winter Games are held **in rotation** every two years.
2. The modern Olympic Games are based on ancient Games that were first held in Olympia, Greece, in 776 BC. They began as part of a **local** religious festival, but soon Greeks from all over the ancient world came to **compete**. A month before the Games began, people waging war declared a truce so the **athletes** could travel safely to Olympia.
3. The Games were held every four years in July or August. From a one-day event, the festival developed into a five-day spectacle that included foot races, wrestling, boxing, discus and javelin throwing, **chariot** races, and horse races.
4. All freeborn males could compete. Women could own a chariot team or a race horse, but could not compete in or even watch the events. Winners brought great honor to their home villages. They received no money, but often got free meals or tickets to sporting or cultural events.
5. The ancient Games lasted for 1,200 years, until the Roman **emperor** Theodosius ended them in AD 393. The Romans **destroyed** the Olympic site a year later.
6. The Olympic Games started up again in the late 1800s. Baron de Coubertin, a French educator, believed that competing in sports taught young people important values such as fair play, **courage**, and respect for their fellow man. He **founded** the International Olympic Committee in 1894. Two years later, the committee put on the first modern Games in Athens.
7. The first separate Winter Olympics was held in 1924. Women competed for the first time in 1928. Athens held the Summer Olympics of 2004. For 17 days, more than 11,000 athletes from 202 countries competed in 28 sports. Over four billion people watched these Games on television. Where will the next Olympic Games be held?

“The Olympic Games remain the most compelling search for excellence that exists in sport, and maybe in life itself.”

—Dawn Fraser,
Australian Olympic swimmer

Comprehension

A. True or False?

Read the statements below.

If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence.

If it is false, write F and correct the information.

- _____ 1. The ancient Olympic Games started as part of a religious celebration.
- _____ 2. The ancient Olympic Games took place during times of war.
- _____ 3. Women could not compete but were allowed to watch the ancient Games.
- _____ 4. The modern Olympic Games are held more frequently than the ancient Games.
- _____ 5. The very first Olympic Games were held in Athens.

B. Ask and Answer

Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner.

Then write your answers in complete sentences in your notebook.

1. How often are the Olympic Games held now?
2. What kind of events took place during the ancient Olympic Games?
3. Who could compete in the ancient Games?
4. How could women be involved in the ancient Games?
5. What did the winners in the ancient Games receive?
6. Who ended the Olympic Games in 393 AD?
7. Why did Baron de Coubertin want to start the Olympic Games again?
8. When were the Olympic Games first divided into Winter and Summer Games?

Vocabulary Review

A. Choose the Correct Word

Choose the word or phrase with the closest meaning to the underlined word or phrase in the following sentences.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>1. The modern Olympics Games are based on <u>ancient</u> Games that were first held in 776 BC.</p> <p>a) Greek
b) from long ago
c) athletic</p> | <p>3. People waging war declared a <u>truce</u>.</p> <p>a) celebration of life
b) truth
c) stop in fighting</p> | <p>5. Winners brought great <u>honor</u> to their villages.</p> <p>a) a lot of money
b) respect
c) event</p> |
| <p>2. A month before the Games, people <u>waging</u> war declared a truce.</p> <p>a) taking part in
b) thinking about
c) paying</p> | <p>4. The festival developed into a five-day <u>spectacle</u>.</p> <p>a) large party
b) long speech
c) public show</p> | |

B. Complete the Sentences

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1. You may need to change the word forms.

1. He doesn't have to leave his city because there is a university in his _____ area.
2. He practices every day because he wants to _____ in the final game.
3. Let's do the dishes _____. I'll start on Monday, and you can do them on Tuesday.
4. Last year, the big earthquake _____ thousands of homes.
5. Do you know the name of the man who _____ McDonald's?

Discussion

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Do you think competitive sports help develop values in young people?</p> <p>2. Do you think your government should pay more money to help train athletes?</p> | <p>3. There is a lot of talk nowadays about athletes using drugs to improve their performance. What do you think should happen to Olympic athletes who take drugs?</p> |
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