

The Olympics

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While reading

Chapters 1–2

1 Circle the right word or words.

- a Olympia was an important place in Greek *politics / religion*.
- b The vehicles used in Greek horse racing were small and *light / heavy*.
- c There was a *long / high* jump event in the early Greek Games.
- d Nero was not a very *fast / skilful* horse driver.
- e In the 1896 Olympics, *more / less* than half the athletes were Greek.
- f In the Games in Athens, an athlete traveled part of the race *on a horse / in a vehicle*.
- g Gold, silver and bronze medals were introduced in the *Paris / St Louis* Games.

2 Circle the wrong word in the sentences.

- a All the Olympic athletes have to train very hardly hard.
- b In Greece, there were many states every each with its own government.
- c In the old Games, the athletes did not wear worn any clothes.
- d In the long race, the athletes had to running run nearly 5,000 metres.
- e The rules for wrestling were similar to of the rules we have today.
- f The *Pankration* was more dangerous as than boxing.
- g A cyclist stopped to waiting wait for another cyclist in the first modern Games.

Chapters 3–4

3 Find the right words in Chapters 3–4.

- a It is what you think about something or somebody. (p. 12)
- b A word to describe someone who is famous in sport, music or film. (p. 14)
- c It means to come after something or someone. (p. 17)
- d The name for a place where only a few people live. (p. 18)
- e The name for a person who buys something. (p. 18)
- f Something is this if it is very good or beautiful. (p. 19)

- g When something is on fire it is this. (p. 19)

4 Put the words in the right place to make a sentence.

- a event for receive Athletes their money couldn't
- b medals back family Thorpe's were his to given
- c months a Robinson wheelchair in was for
- d cannot in Olympic some Women compete events
- e without Pistorius run disabilities wanted against to athletes
- f lot The can of Olympics a money make
- g play Some a wanted joke students to

5 Put a word or words on the left with a word or words on the right.

- | | |
|---------|------------|
| catch | your mind |
| fall to | a joke |
| receive | idea |
| win an | event |
| change | a train |
| have an | speech |
| play | money |
| give a | the ground |

Chapters 5–6

6 Are the sentences right (✓) or wrong (✗)?

- a From 1900 to 1912 the Americans were always top of the medal table.
- b A gold medal must be at least 60% gold.
- c Some athletes didn't think success for their country was important.
- d In 1980, the American ice hockey team beat the Russian team and the Finland team.
- e Some people thought that a high jumper's kind of jump could be dangerous.
- f There was a women's ski jumping event in the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver.
- g At first, the throws with the new metal javelin were shorter.

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7 Underline the wrong word and put the right one.

- There was a problem with the ball in the 1972 basketball final between the United States and the Soviet Union.
.....
- Many players in the US ice hockey team in 1980 were professionals.
.....
- In 2008, China wanted to show how rich it was
.....
- Many people wanted South Africa to give more food to the black people.
.....
- Bob Beamon sometimes had problems with the middle of his jump.
.....
- Carl Lewis picked up some grass from the long jump.
.....
- The Olympic organisers changed the colour of the new javelin.
.....

Chapters 7–8

8 Put the underlined letters in the right place to make a word.

- Many people thought it was semspilboi to run the 100 metres in under ten seconds.
- The runner, Bikila, ran without shoes because it was more feobamtocrl
.....
- A race for nimutoan bikes was introduced in Atlanta.
- Chris Boardman's bicycle was the tsglethi bicycle ever.
- Weissmüller was very uarppol because he was good-looking.
- Weismuller wanted a fedtifrne life in Hollywood.
- The Japanese rmvteongne gave Dawn Fraser a flag.

9 Finish the sentences with the right words.

- in into about after between behind at
- A lot of people think there is something special the fastest race.
 - In fast races the difference winning and losing can be very small.
 - People talked about the runner, Flojo, many years her death.

- Some runners like to wait the athlete in front.
- The Ethiopian runners trained shoes.
- Some boat races are held sea and others on lakes and rivers.
- Fraser got trouble with the police in Tokyo.

Chapters 9–10

10 Write the names next to the person who says or thinks this.

- Nadia Comaneci Cassius Clay Olga Korburt Charles Vinci Paul Anderson Teófilo Stevenson Greg Louganis
- 'It's OK. You can cut my hair off if you want to.'
 - 'I was much heavier a few months ago.'
 - 'I am the greatest boxer in the world.'
 - 'I don't want the money, I want to stay in Cuba.'
 - 'I know it's a dangerous dive but I'm going to do it.'
 - 'People will remember my beautiful smile for years.'
 - 'I am the first person to score a perfect 10.'

11 Answer the questions.

- What happens to weightlifters before the competition?
- Where did two wrestlers fight for nine hours?
- What did the wrestler, Alexander Medved, do very well?
- What do boxers wear on their heads?
- How old was Nadia Comaneci when she scored a perfect ten?
- What was very important in Eastern Europe after the war?
- What do ice dancers carefully choose before their dance?

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Chapters 11–12

12 Finish the sentences with the right names.

Derartu Tulu Renate Neufeld Zola Budd

Ron Clarke Michael Phelps Victoria

Pendleton Robina Muqimyar

a trained with weights in the morning.

b ate lot of food.

c started to grow a moustache.

d held a world record at the age of seventeen.

e became a politician in Afghanistan.

f was from Australia.

g ran in a race with a white South African woman.

13 Put a word or words on the left with a word or words on the right.

hard weak

strong first

wrong easy

best worst

alive far

last low

close right

high dead

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I Answer the questions.

- a Who were not allowed to watch the early Games in Greece?
- b Where did Pierre de Coubertin live?
- c Which was the first South American country to host the Games?
- d What travels from Athens to the host city at every Olympics?
- e In what shape do most ski jumpers now put their skis?
- f What did Hitler want to prove in the Berlin Games in 1936?
- g Which two countries produce good middle and long-distance runners?
- h Why couldn't Cassius Clay enter a restaurant?
- i What was the problem with the music Torvill and Dean chose?
- j What is the biggest problem in the modern Olympics?

2 What's first? Number the sentences 1–10.

- a ☐ The first Paralympics were held.
- b ☐ Coubertin introduced his five rules for the Games.
- c ☐ Scientists found drugs in Ben Johnson's body after a race.
- d ☐ The first Winter Olympics were held.
- e ☐ Muhammad Ali won a gold medal in the boxing event.
- f ☐ Michael Phelps won eight gold medals at the Beijing Games.
- g ☐ The Games were held in Olympia, in Greece.
- h ☐ Robina Muqimyar competed in the Games for Afghanistan.
- i ☐ A group killed some athletes in the Munich Games.
- j ☐ There were no Games because of World War II.

3 Finish the sentences with the right names.

- Oscar Pistorius Olga Korbut Zola Budd
 Johnny Weissmüller Milo of Croton
 Boris Onyshchenko Pierre de Coubertin
 Dick Fosbury Cassius Clay Karl Lewis
- a won six times at the Games, 2,500 years ago.

- b presented a plan for the modern Olympics in Paris, in 1894.
- c had no legs but ran very fast.
- d introduced a new kind of jump that people thought was funny.
- e was a Romanian swimmer who went to Hollywood.
- f slept with his gold medal he won for boxing.
- g was a very short and light Russian gymnast.
- h broke the rules in the fencing event.
- i thought that Ben Johnson won the race too easily.
- j was a South African runner who went to live in Britain.

4 Circle the right word or words.

- a The *driver / trainer* of the fastest horses was the winner of the race.
- b One of Coubertin's rules said *children / married women* could not compete.
- c After World War II, the *Americans / Russians* spent a lot of money on sport.
- d In the 1920s, some people didn't want women to compete in *races / the javelin*.
- e The summer and winter Games are held in *the same year / different years* today.
- f There was a mistake with the clock in an *ice hockey / basketball* game in 1972.
- g Some countries have used the Games to send a *religious / political* message.
- h *England / Finland* has produced some very good long-distance runners.
- i An Olympic fencer broke the rules by *taking drugs / using secret equipment*.
- j The American runner, Mary Decker, *forgave / didn't forgive* Zola Budd.

5 Finish the sentences with the right word.

- cold village throwing track record
 anthem straight stronger head messenger
- a Coubertin's idea for the Games was that they should be Faster, Higher,
 - b A died in Greece after running 40 kilometres.
 - c If an athlete wins a gold medal, their national is played.

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- d There was a war between the US and the Soviet Union in the 1950s.
- e The Israeli team were attacked in the Olympic in 1972.
- f In the high jump, Fosbury put his over the bar first.
- g Beamon's world was not broken for twenty-three years.
- h Before 1985, Olympic ski jumpers jumped with their skis
- i The discus is a event.
- j In cycling there are road races and inside races.