

The Olympics

Photocopiable

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.

a There was a problem with the ball in the 1972 basketball final between the United States and the Soviet Union.
.....

b Many players in the US ice hockey team in 1980 were professionals.
.....

c In 2008, China wanted to show how rich it was
.....

d Many people wanted South Africa to give more food to the black people.
.....

e Bob Beamon sometimes had problems with the middle of his jump.
.....

f Carl Lewis picked up some grass from the long jump.

g 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.

a Many people thought it was semspilboi to run the 100 metres in under ten seconds.

b The runner, Bikila, ran without shoes because it was more feobamtocrl
.....

c A race for nimutoan bikes was introduced in Atlanta.

d Chris Boardman's bicycle was the tsglethi bicycle ever.

e Weissmüller was very uarppol because he was good-looking.

f Weismuller wanted a fedtfirne life in Hollywood.

g The Japanese rmvteongne gave Dawn Fraser a flag.

9 Finish the sentences with the right words.

in into about after between behind at

a A lot of people think there is something special the fastest race.

b In fast races the difference winning and losing can be very small.

c People talked about the runner, Flojo, many years her death.

d Some runners like to wait the athlete in front.

e The Ethiopian runners trained shoes.

f Some boat races are held sea and others on lakes and rivers.

g 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 Comañeci Cassius Clay Olga Korbut Charles Vinci Paul Anderson Teófilo Stevenson Greg Louganis

a 'It's OK. You can cut my hair off if you want to.'

b 'I was much heavier a few months ago.'

c 'I am the greatest boxer in the world.'

d 'I don't want the money, I want to stay in Cuba.'

e 'I know it's a dangerous dive but I'm going to do it.'

f 'People will remember my beautiful smile for years.'

g 'I am the first person to score a perfect 10.'

11 Answer the questions.

a What happens to weightlifters before the competition?

b Where did two wrestlers fight for nine hours?

c What did the wrestler, Alexander Medved, do very well?

d What do boxers wear on their heads?

e How old was Nadia Comaneci when she scored a perfect ten?

f What was very important in Eastern Europe after the war?

g What do ice dancers carefully choose before their dance?

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Photocopiable**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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1 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.