

Olympics[®]

WORKSHEET A

Exercise 1

Do the quiz. Circle the correct answers.

1. When were the first recorded Olympic Games held?
 - a) 776 BC
 - b) 76 BC
 - c) 76 AD
 - d) 776 AD
2. Where were they held?
 - a) Olympus
 - b) Sparta
 - c) Athens
 - d) Olympia
3. The ancient Games were held in honour of ...
 - a) Apollo.
 - b) Zeus.
 - c) Athena.
 - d) Poseidon.
4. The Games took place every ...
 - a) year.
 - b) four years.
 - c) five years.
 - d) seventy years.
5. The prize for winning an ancient Olympic event was ...
 - a) five gold rings.
 - b) a crown of olive branches.
 - c) a gold medal.
 - d) five goats.
6. When were the first *modern* Olympic Games held?
 - a) 1896
 - b) 1908
 - c) 1920
 - d) 1924
7. Where were they held?
 - a) Antwerp
 - b) Amsterdam
 - c) Athens
 - d) London
8. The five Olympic rings represent ...
 - a) the winners' five gold medals.
 - b) the five continents.
 - c) the five events of the pentathlon.
 - d) the king's five rings, worn on his five fingers.
9. The Olympic creed states that the important thing in the Games is ...
 - a) to be the best you can be.
 - b) to make friends around the world.
 - c) not to win but to take part.
 - d) to survive.
10. The Olympic motto *Citius Altius Fortius* means ...
 - a) a lemon a day keeps the doctor away.
 - b) my country is the best.
 - c) faster, higher, stronger.
 - d) forty people from each city.

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WORKSHEET B

The first recorded Olympic Games were an altogether more modest affair than those of today, consisting of just one event, the *stadion* foot race. The year was 776 BC and the location was Olympia in what is now western Greece (not to be confused with Olympus, which is a mountain in the north-east of Greece, the home of the gods in Greek mythology).

The Games were started up to honour Zeus, king of the ancient Greeks' gods. The Games were held every four years from the beginning, and other events were added gradually. The *pentathlon* consisted of five events: the stadion foot race, the long jump, discus throwing, javelin and wrestling; but the pentathlon only appeared seventy years after the first Olympiad.

In the ninth century BC, there were many wars taking place among the cities and states of ancient Greece. King Iphitos of Elis (a city-state of Olympia) asked the Delphic Oracle how to bring peace to the land. The Oracle said to reinstate the Games, and to plant an olive tree and make crowns from its branches for the winners.

The Games were abolished in 393 AD by the Christian Byzantine Emperor Theodosius I. If the modern-day Olympics last as long, they will still be held in 3066 AD.

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WORKSHEET C

Exercise 2

Read the second part of the text. There are eighteen lines. Fifteen of them contain one extra word. Find the extra words and write them in the column on the right. The first two lines have been done as examples.

1.	Around <u>the</u> 1,500 years after the ancient Olympics were abolished, a Frenchman	the
2.	named Baron de Coubertin decided to reinstate the Games as a means of	✓
3.	providing friendship and to understanding between nations. The first modern	
4.	Olympics were be held in Athens in 1896, but it wasn't until 1920, in Antwerp,	
5.	that the Olympic rings made their debut on the flag. The five rings are thought to	
6.	symbolise the five continents: an Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and America,	
7.	and it is widely believed that the colours of the rings (blue, black, red, stripes,	
8.	yellow and green) were chosen because at least one of them is can be found in	
9.	the flag of every nation. At the 1908 London Games, so Bishop Ethelbert Talbot	
10.	impressed Baron de Coubertin with his speech to the Olympic athletes when	
11.	he did declared, 'The important thing in these Games is not to win but to take	
12.	part, just as for the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the	
13.	struggle.' Baron de Mr Coubertin adopted the first part of this speech as the	
14.	Games' creed, there which now appears on the scoreboard during the	
15.	opening ceremony. As well as but providing the games with a creed, Baron de	
16.	Coubertin also adopted the motto <i>Citius Altius Fortius</i> , at which means	
17.	<i>faster, higher, stronger</i> , a sentiment that them athletes from all over the	
18.	world modern aspire to achieve.	