

THE OLYMPIC GAMES

The first Olympics games are usually given the start year of 776 BCE, but they probably began even sooner. The ancient Greeks loved competitions of all sorts, especially sporting competitions. The



Olympics were not the only competition games held in ancient Greece, but they were the most popular. The Games were held in honour of Zeus, king of the gods, and were staged every four years at Olympia, a valley near a city called Elis. The Greeks took the Olympic games quite seriously. Nearly all the ancient Greek cities sent teams to participate in the ancient Greek Olympics. If two or more Greek city-states happen to be at war with each other when the game date arrived, war was halted for the duration of the games. Everyone wanted their city-state to win!

Development of the Games

DAY 1.

The festival has begun, but most of the athletes won't compete today. This morning the athletes worship Zeus and later, they can relax with family and friends, before the competition gets underway tomorrow.



DAY 2.

It's the second day of the Games and now the contest gets going. Up first, horse and chariot-racing and later, over in the stadium, the pentathlon (discus, javelin, jumping, running and wrestling). This evening the crowd honours the first Olympic hero, Pelops, and then it's time for feasting.



DAY 3.

Today, Zeus is honoured with sacrifices and a procession. Later on, over in the stadium, it's the running races, including the all-important sprint race. And this evening, it's the big banquet to celebrate the victories so far.

DAY 4.

Contact sports take centre stage today, with wrestling, boxing and the pankration (he athletes can strike and kick each other and even use strangleholds to defeat their opponent. The only things not allowed are biting and gouging with the fingers) on offer. Over in the stadium, the race in armour will be contested this afternoon.

DAY 5.

It's the last day and time to acknowledge our winners. First up, the procession and then, the moment the victors have been waiting for, the presentation of olive leaf crowns. We end the day with feasting, singing and parties.

Bibliography

http://www.ancientgreece.co.uk/festivals/story/sto_set.html

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/ancient_greeks/the_olympic_games/



Question

1. Put the name of each image

Wrestling

Running

Chariot Race

Horse Race

Javelin

Oil jar and strigil - used for
cleaning before a race

Discus

Long jump – holding weights on each
hand

Pankration- boxing and wrestling
combined

Running race in full armour

Trumpeting – loudest wins!

Starting block



