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This file offers views of some of the worksheets in our “Olympics” thematic unit. The cover for an eWorkbook is shown followed by the preview pages.

The “Olympics” unit offers [16 pages](#).

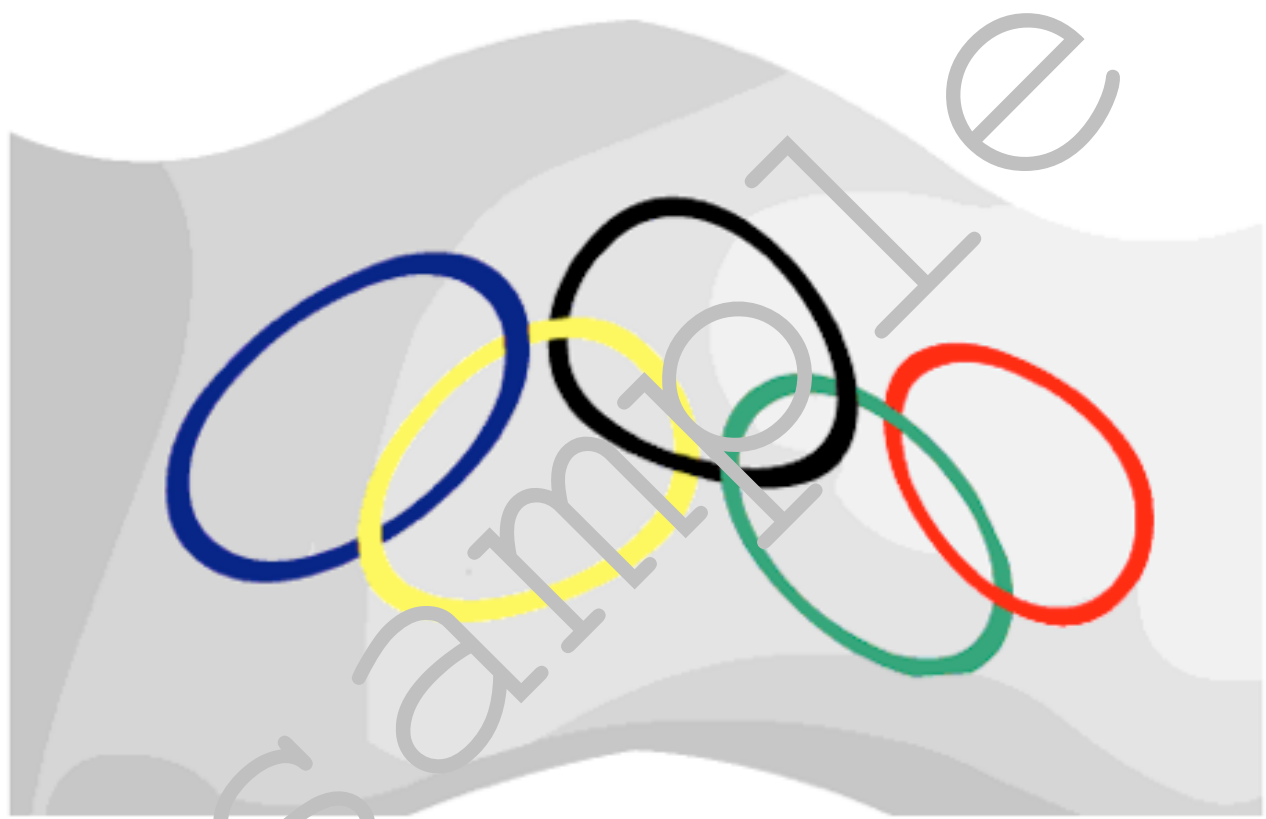
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# Olympics





# Olympics

## The Original Olympic Games

In the world of almost three thousand years ago one of the strongest civilizations was the Greeks. These people were mighty warriors and great thinkers. They were also pagans. They believed that there were many gods and goddesses controlling their lives and world.



The Greeks held many festivals to honor these gods. The major festivals were the Pan Hellenic Games. Each year a competition was held to honor a different god or goddess at a special city. There were four cities involved in hosting the Pan Hellenic Games. Each city had a turn every four years.



The favorite contests and ceremonies were the festivals for the god Zeus. Since the Zeus games were held at the temple of Olympia near the town of Elis, they became known as the Olympics. The Olympics became so famous throughout the country that the years they were held were called Olympiads.

When the Olympiad occurred during a time of war excitement over the contests changed a few rules. Most of the men competing were soldiers. They were allowed to leave the battles behind and go compete. The athletic warriors were allowed to travel safely to the games even if they had to pass through enemy territory to get there. The wars just went on without them.

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Where is Greece. Look up the location and write it on the lines. Please use complete sentences.

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In 1992, professional basketball athletes were allowed to compete. The entry of professional baseball players was made legal in the year 2000.

In 1994, the Winter Olympics and the Summer Olympics were separated. The Winter Games were moved to a slot two years after the Summer Games.



By the end of their first century, the modern Olympic Games had truly become a world event. The Summer Games of 1996, in Atlanta, Georgia in the USA were attended by over 10,300 athletes from 197 different countries. These men and women competed in 271 separate events. This is a huge improvement over the first attempt by Baron de Coubertin in 1896!

The entire event usually lasts just over 2 weeks. Host cities spend 5 to 10 years getting all the places built and ready for the contests, athletes, and tourists. Millions of dollars are spent preparing for the Games. Millions of dollars come back to the host city from tourists and media attention. With the invention of cable and satellite TV the events can be watched by billions of people in every country of the world.



Read each word below. Write a definition for each word on the lines.

1. athlete \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. tourists \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Olympics

CRISS CROSS

Can you fit these words into the criss cross?  
Use a pencil so you can erase if you need to.

rings  
olympics

medals  
games

race  
compete

motto  
flag

