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Reading Olympics – CLOZE Answers

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ANCIENT AND MODERN

ANSWERS



The call number or Dewey number for the Olympic Games is 796.48

The first recorded Games were held in 776 BC at Olympia, a sacred site in Ancient Greece dedicated to the God Zeus. The Ancient Greeks held regular festivals here in his honour. These included a sprint race in a stadium on a track 192 metres long. The athletes carried shields and wore helmets, but no clothes.

From 766 BC onwards, the Games took place at 4 yearly intervals, called Olympiads; the Games were so important that the Olympiad was used as a way of measuring time. More running events were added, together with jumping, throwing, wrestling and chariot racing. Processions, feast and poetry recitals remained part of the festival, which came to last for five days.

It was forbidden for women and slaves even to watch the Games, let alone take part.

After Rome conquered Greece, the Olympics became less important. Finally they were banned in AD 393.

Archaeologists have uncovered the ruins of the site of the original Olympic Games. There were temples to Zeus, king of the gods and Hera, Zeus's wife. The stadium, entered through an archway, held over 20,000 spectators and the athletes trained in a luxurious gymnasium with hot and cold baths.

In 1892, some 1499 years after the Ancient Olympics finished, a French Baron, Pierre de Coubertin (1863-1937), had the idea of bringing the Olympic Games back. He convinced sporting authorities all over the world that the revived Games would strengthen young people's bodies and minds, as well as helping international understanding.

It was decided to hold the Olympic Games every four years, as before. The first Games of modern times were held in the Greek capital, Athens. In 2008 the Olympic Games will be held in Beijing the capital city of China, during the month of August.

A famous quote from Baron de Coubertin was "*The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win, but to take part,*"

