

The Story of the Olympics: An Unofficial History

Rachel Bladon

A Before Reading

1 a The Olympic Games has a long history. What do you know about it?

1 When did the Olympic Games first start?

2 What are two myths about how the Games started?

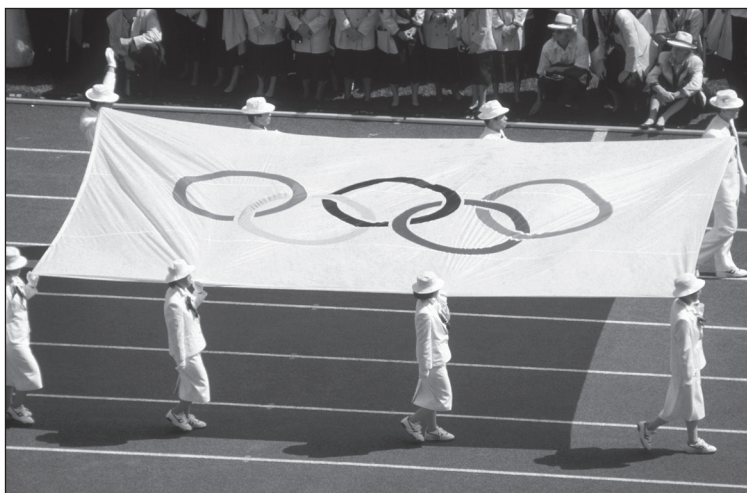
3 The Olympic Games represent peace. What is the reason for this?

b Read the first two chapters to check your ideas.

2 a Here are some pictures from the book. Match the words in the box to the things you can see in the pictures.

a cauldron chariots a flag

1



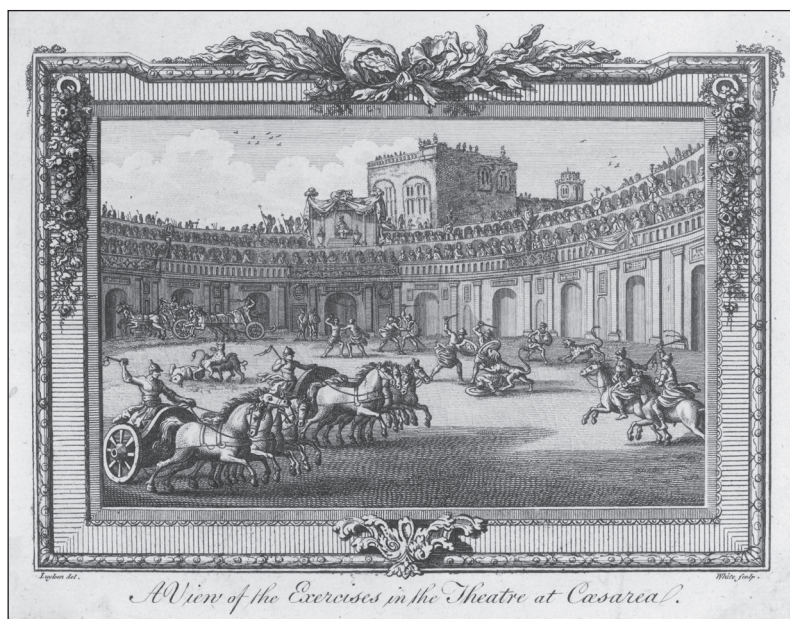
Alamy/E.Langsley Olympic Images

2



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3



Mary Evans Picture Library

b Why are these things important in the Olympics?

B While Reading

- 3 Every chapter contains a lot of information about the Olympics. Match the chapter title with the information. The first two are done for you.

Chapter	Information
1 The Olympics Today	a Greece The gods Zeus and Hera No fighting during the Games
2 The First Games	b The International Olympic Committee The Olympic Village Traditions
3 The Ancient Olympics	c The Great Depression Invasions Apartheid
4 The Start of the Modern Olympics	d Accommodation Millions of dollars Publicity
5 The Games Grow	e Cheating Drugs Terrorism
6 Olympic Sports and Great Olympians	f Religion Plato and Aristotle Earthquakes
7 Events in History	g World records Bravery A perfect performance
8 Problems at the Olympics	h A Greek poet, an English doctor, a French aristocrat, a Greek architect
9 The Paralympics	i From the USA to Sweden Changes Women allowed
10 Today and into the Future	j The Second World War Stoke Mandeville Hospital Better health

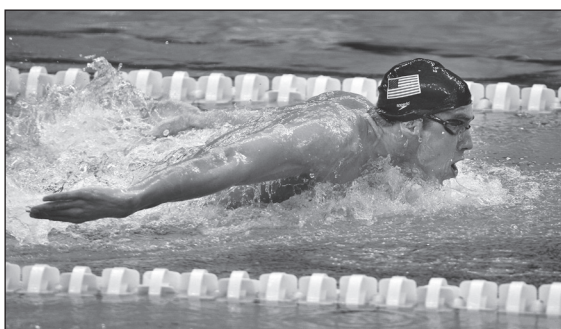
- 4 Here are some famous Olympians. Who are they? What events can you see? Why were they important? Check your answers as you read.

a



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b



Rex Features/P.Hillyard/Newspix

c



Corbis/Bettmann

C After Reading

5 a What sports are you most interested in?

b Which event would you like to watch at the Olympic Games?

c Has your country ever hosted the Olympic Games?

d What are the advantages of hosting the Olympic Games?

6 Write a proposal to host the Olympic Games in your home town. What is special about your town? What facilities has it got? Where would you build the stadium? How would the Olympics help your home town? Write between 120 and 180 words.