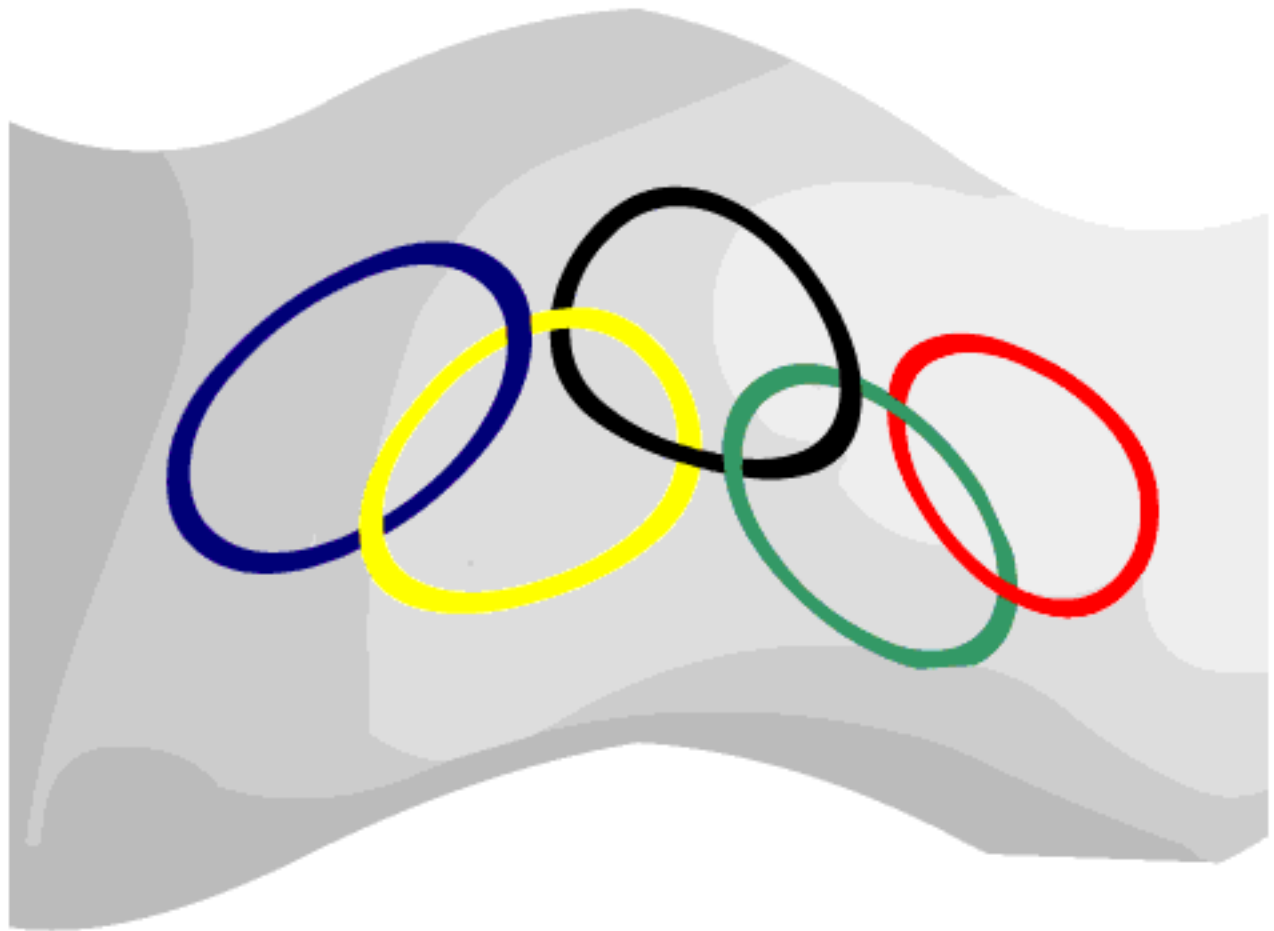




Olympics



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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# 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 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 athlete 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.

---

Where is Greece. Look up the location and write it on the lines.

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# Olympics

At first the contests were only foot races. Over the next hundreds of years they added more and more contests. There were horse races and chariot races. There was wrestling, jumping, and swimming. Throwing objects similar to weapons for great distances were also included.

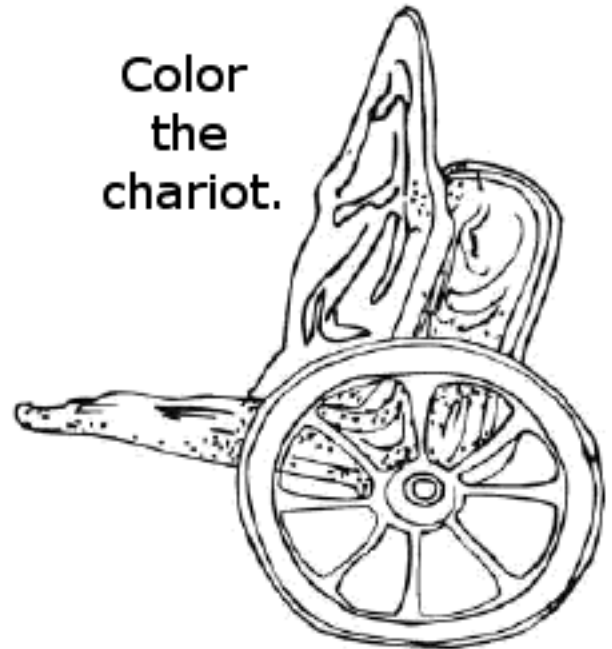
Women were not allowed to compete in the games. They were not even allowed to watch the games in the early Olympics. The reason for this was that all the contestants were naked. This guaranteed that no man had weapons or tools to help him win.

Over the years the other three festivals in the Pan Hellenic Games got smaller and smaller. By about 500 BC the Olympic festival was the only large competition that existed.

The first time anybody wrote about the Olympics was in the year 776 BC. Since the record mentions how well the contests were organized historians are sure that they had been played for many years before that. The letter told that the prize for the winner of each event was an olive branch. The winners would be heroes throughout the country for at least the next four years.

The Olympics were stopped in the year 394 AD by the Roman Emperor Theodosius I. Since the Games had been used to honor the Greek gods and Theodosius was trying to make everybody in his kingdom become Christians he ordered the Games stopped. And they did stop for over 1500 years.

Color  
the  
chariot.





# Olympics

## THE REBIRTH OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES

In the early years of archaeology a group was working to uncover the ancient stadium of Olympia. The area had been covered by landslides and earthquakes. The discovery of the temples and competition fields in 1875 sparked the interest of many Europeans. The reports of the work being done there also mentioned the letters from over two thousand years ago about the games held there.

One French educator got the idea of starting the games again from reading the reports about Olympia. Baron Pierre de Coubertin talked some friends of his into forming a committee to see what could be done. In 1894 the first International Olympic Committee was formed.

The idea of the new Olympics was to have amateur athletes from around the world meet in a different city every four years for competition against each other. Some games would be each person competing alone, some would be team games. All athletes would represent their home country. All contests would be judged by a panel to provide fairness.



---

Read each sentence below. Fill in the missing answer.

1. The idea of the new Olympics was to have \_\_\_\_\_ athletes.
2. All athletes would represent their \_\_\_\_\_ country.
3. In \_\_\_\_\_ the first International Olympic Committee was formed.
4. All \_\_\_\_\_ would be judged by a panel to provide fairness.

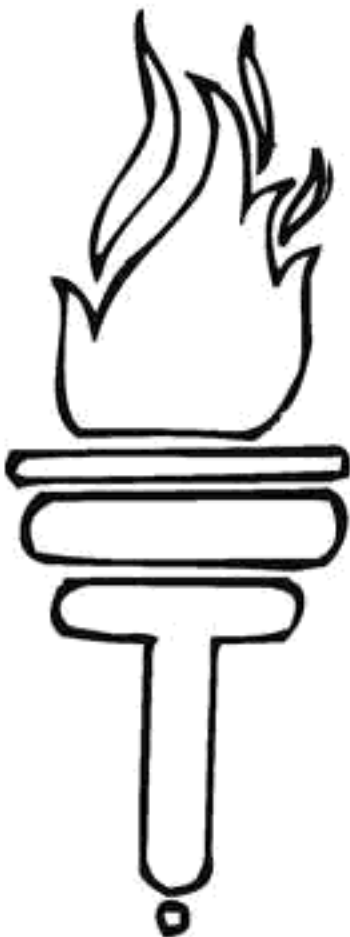


# Olympics

The idea spread rapidly. Even though many little things went wrong the first "modern" Olympics took place only two years later in the city of Athens, Greece. It was a very small start with only nine different kinds of contests, 13 competing countries and 300 athletes.

It took several more years for the Olympic Games to really get going. In the year 1900, there were more people watching the games than there were athletes. Women were allowed to compete in that year.

The Games of 1904 were a small part of the World's Fair in the city of St. Louis, Missouri. Not very many people understood the idea behind the olympics yet. To bring athletes from around the world together in the hopes that world peace and understanding would follow was a strange concept to the citizens of the early 20th century. Over 90% of the world population had never been more than 10 miles from their town of birth.



By the year 1924 when the Winter Olympics were added to the schedule things had improved. For the next 70 years the games grew in size and fame. Most of the time the events were full of fun and goodwill.

The major powers of the world were involved in very large wars that caused the cancellation of the Games in 1916, 1940, and 1944. At the Olympics of Munich, Germany in 1972 some terrorists invaded the housing area of the athletes and killed many from the group representing Israel.

**Color the torch.**



# Olympics

In 1992 professional athletes in the game of basketball 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 was 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

## OLYMPIC SYMBOLS

**MOTTO** - The motto for the modern Olympics was borrowed by Baron de Coubertin from a French college in Paris. It is translated into English as "Swifter, Higher, Stronger". The actual words used by the IOC (International Olympic Committee) are the Latin words "Citius, Altius, Fortius". Every athlete wishes to 'run swifter, jump higher, or be stronger' than their competitors.

**THE FIVE RINGS** - Once again Baron de Coubertin borrowed something to make the Olympics special. The unproven tale says that he saw a design of five connected rings on an old piece of Greek art. It is not written whether the ancient rings were colored or not. He first showed the design to the IOC in 1913.

The Baron decided that the five rings would represent the five major areas of the world. These were Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania, and the Americas.

At least one of the colors of the rings can be found on every national flag of the world. The colors of the Olympic rings are always in the same order from left to right. They are blue, yellow, black, green, and red. The colors represent only the flag colors of the world, not the countries or continents.

Draw a picture of the "Olympic Rings" and color them.



# Olympics

**THE FLAG** - The flag of the Olympic Games was first flown at the Games of 1920. It shows the five colored rings on a white cloth. The mayor of the host city brings the flag to the opening ceremony. At the closing ceremony on the last day he gives it to the mayor of the city where the next Games will be held. The flag stays in the new city until the closing ceremony of their Games.



**THE FLAME & THE TORCH** - The ancient Olympic Games of Greece were started by the lighting of a flame in the stadium. That tradition continues for the summer games. A new flame is always started at Olympia for each Olympiad. A powerful mirror is used to concentrate the rays of the sun until a fire ignites.

A torch is lit from the flames at Olympia and starts its journey to the host city of the games. Sometimes this journey has taken as long as ten months. The Olympic flame has traveled by airplanes and been carried on camels and by scuba divers!

The modern system of the Olympic torch relay started at the Games of 1936. The torch travels around Greece first and then around the areas of the host country.



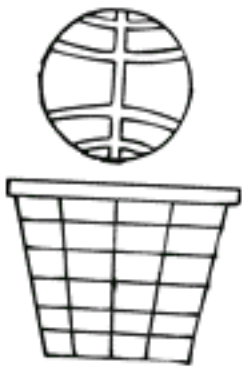
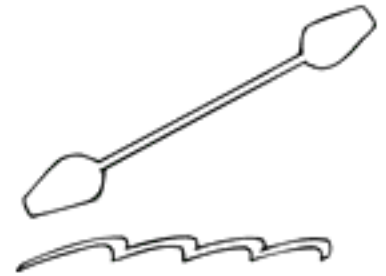
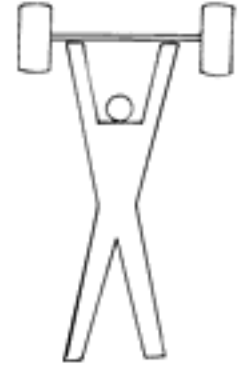
Many people are chosen to get the torch from its starting point to the large cauldron at the stadium. Some of the people are former athletes. All are special. Some people have carried the torch while on bicycles or in wheelchairs. Some carry it for only a few feet and others for miles. On its journey to Sydney, Australia in the year 2000, eleven thousand people helped the torch reach its destination.

The flame is totally extinguished at the closing ceremony of each Olympiad.



# Olympics

Color the symbols.





# Olympics

## OTHER OLYMPICS

**PARALYMPICS** - The Paralympics were started in 1948 in England to allow sports competition for people that had received injuries in World War II.

The movement has expanded to include athletes with all kinds of disabilities. The Paralympic Committee modeled all their events on the style of the Olympics in 1960. These games are held using the same fields and arenas as the Olympiad Games. The Paralympics are held in the same places just after the finish of the Olympics.

The number of competitors at the Paralympics has reached almost 4,000 athletes from over 170 countries in its short history. Some events are baseball, basketball, track and field, and swimming. Winter games are also held by the Paralympics. Contestants do not consider themselves handicapped just athletes with an adjustment.



---

Read each sentence below. Write your answers on the line.

1. What year were the paralympics started? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What country were the paralympics first started? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Contestants do not consider themselves handicapped just athletes with an \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The Paralympics are held in the same places just after the finish of the \_\_\_\_\_.



# Olympics

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS** - The movement to create games and competition for people with mental retardation was started in the United States by Eunice Kennedy Shriver in 1968. People from young kids to senior citizens train and compete in many events.

Unlike the Olympics and Paralympics, training and events occur all year long. All competitors are encouraged to make sports and exercise a life long activity. All the athletes are winners.

Special Olympics also has world events on a two year cycle of summer and winter games. The games are held at venues that may not have been host cities to the Olympics. The Special Olympic Games are held the year after the Olympic/Paralympic Games. In Dublin, Ireland over 7,000 Special Olympians from 170 countries competed in the Summer Special Olympics.

**SENIOR OLYMPICS** - A group that started in the United States in the late 1980s is aimed at competitive sports events for people aged 50 or over. They are not related to the International Olympic Committee sponsored events at all.



Every state has a National Senior Game Association. National Senior Olympic Games are held every two years alternating winter and summer events. Maybe the movement will continue to grow around the world.

---

If you could be in the olympics what would you compete in and why?

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# Olympics

## Spelling

Print the correct spelling word on the line.

---

---

1. pagans  
pegans  
pagens

\_\_\_\_\_

2. terch  
tarchl  
torch

\_\_\_\_\_

3. flome  
flame  
fhane

\_\_\_\_\_

4. ceromony  
cevemony  
ceremony

\_\_\_\_\_

5. athletes  
ahtletes  
athlates

\_\_\_\_\_





# Olympics

## WORD UNSCRAMBLE

Unscramble each word and print the word on the line.

---

---

1. gpasna

\_\_\_\_\_

2. rtewni

\_\_\_\_\_

3. malfe

\_\_\_\_\_

4. drlnouca

\_\_\_\_\_

5. dlsame

\_\_\_\_\_

6. orhct

\_\_\_\_\_





# Olympics

## WORD FIND

Find and circle these words. They run down, across, and diagonally.

**competition**

**summer**

**cauldron**

**ceremony**

**pagans**

**winter**

**medals**

**games**

**athletes**

**flame**

**torch**

**flag**

f w m b a f u s e p a g a n s  
g l i h e t n p a f x a l l a  
p h a n a l e a s q y m i u c  
w e i g g b t c m r g e g b o  
i l r h a t h l e t e s h b m  
n p p m s x b u d p n b t e p  
t f o c l w a n a t f l a m e  
e u r t s n j c l s o o i j t  
r l t a u e s e s a i r q s i  
c e r e m o n y t a l o c p t  
r u d d m r n t s i n r e h i  
c e i v e w b x b s n m p g o  
d h e l r c o c a u l d r o n



# Olympics

## CRISS CROSS

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

rings

medals

race

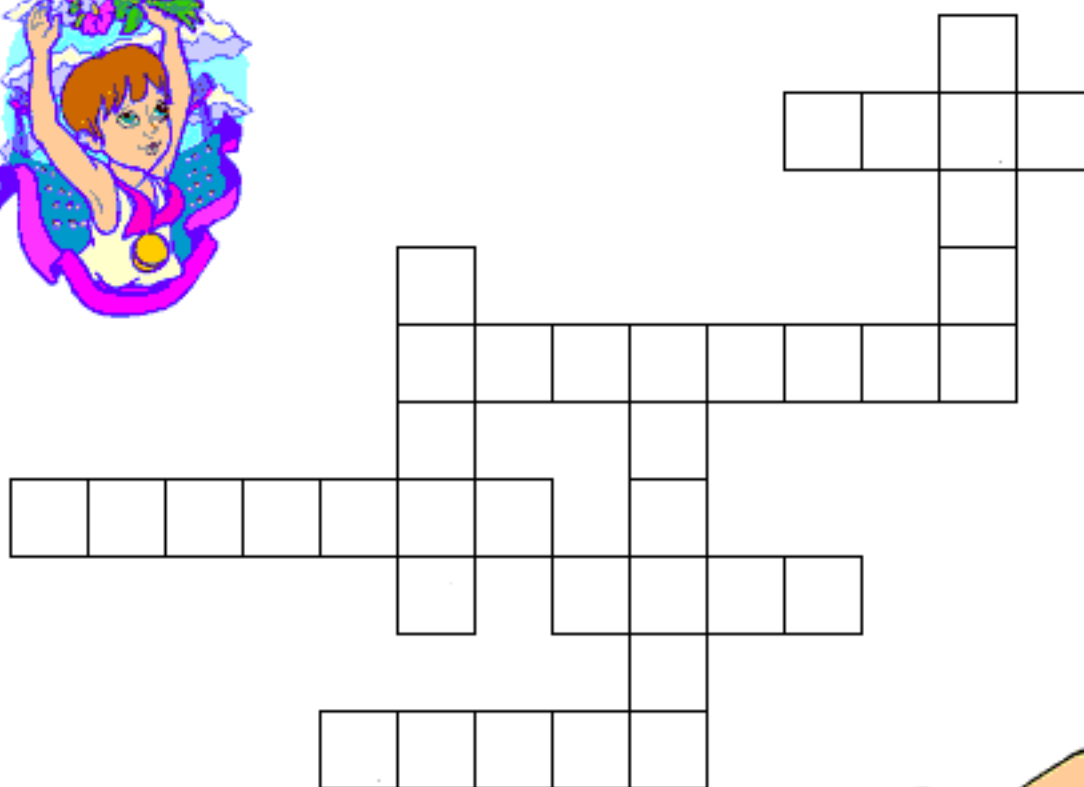
motto

olympics

games

compete

flag





# Olympics

## Spelling

Print the correct spelling word on the line.

---

---

1. pagans  
pegans  
pagens

\_\_\_\_\_ pagans \_\_\_\_\_

2. terch  
tarchl  
torch

\_\_\_\_\_ torch \_\_\_\_\_

3. flome  
flame  
fhane

\_\_\_\_\_ flame \_\_\_\_\_

4. ceromony  
cevemony  
ceremony

\_\_\_\_\_ ceremony \_\_\_\_\_

5. athletes  
ahletes  
athlates

\_\_\_\_\_ athletes \_\_\_\_\_





# Olympics

## WORD UNSCRAMBLE

Unscramble each word and print the word on the line.

---

---

1. gpasna

pagans

2. rtewni

winter

3. malfe

flame

4. drlnouca

cauldron

5. dlsame

medals

6. orhct

torch





# Olympics

## WORD FIND

Find and circle these words. They run down, across, and diagonally.

competition

summer

cauldron

ceremony

pagans

winter

medals

games

athletes

flame

torch

flag

f w m b a f u s e p a g a n s  
g l i h e t n p a f x a l l a  
p h a n a l e a s q y m i u c  
w e i g g b t c m r g e g b o  
i l r h a t h l e t e s h b m  
n p p m s x b u d p n b t e p  
t f o c l w a n a t f l a m e  
e u r t s n j c l s o o i j t  
r l t a u e s e s a i r q s i  
c e r e m o n y t a l o c p t  
r u d d m r n t s i n r e h i  
c e i v e w b x b s n m p g o  
d h e l r c o c a u l d r o n

