



# THE

# OLYMPIC STORY



## GRΣΣCΣ

### THE ANCIENT OLYMPICS

The Olympic Games begin in Ancient Greece. The first written record: 776 B.C. The last Ancient Games: 393 A.D. That's more than 1,000 years!

Olympus is a special town for the Games. Sport and religion are important for the Ancient Greeks. The event is in honour of the god Zeus. There is a temple in Olympus, and a big stadium – 20,000 spectators can watch the Games. All the athletes are men, and all the spectators are men, too.

The competitors do not wear any clothes. The competitions are races (400 metres and 5,000 metres), chariot-racing, boxing, and the pentathlon (running, long jump, discus, javelin and wrestling). You can see pictures of these sports on Ancient Greek pots.

During these Games, every four years, all wars stop. The cities of Ancient Greece are at peace.

### THE MODERN OLYMPICS

#### Athens 1896



At the end of the 19th century, a Frenchman, Philippe de Coubertin, wants to revive the Olympic Games. In 1896, he organises the first modern Games in Athens. There are 295 athletes from 13 countries, and 40,000 spectators. After this, there are Games every four years. But when there is a war (1914-18 and 1939-45), there are no Games.



#### Athens 2004

The five Olympic rings are in Athens again! Each ring represents a different continent. For the Greeks, this is an important moment. The modern world remembers the values of the Ancient World.



#### WORD FILE

<b>ancient</b>	Very old.
<b>athlete</b>	A person who takes part in a sports competition.
<b>in honour of</b>	To show respect to a person.
<b>javelin</b>	A long pointed stick to throw in sports competition.
<b>peace</b>	The opposite of war.
<b>represent (v)</b>	To use a symbol for a person or event.
<b>revive (v)</b>	To make something happen again.
<b>ring</b>	A circle.
<b>spectator</b>	A person who watches a sport.
<b>stadium</b>	A large building for sports events.
<b>value</b>	An important personal belief.
<b>war</b>	Conflict between states or nations.
<b>wrestling</b>	A sport in which a person holds and throws the other person.

 <b>honor</b>	 <b>honour</b>
<b>meter</b>	<b>metre</b>
<b>organize (v)</b>	<b>organise (v)</b>

Check the reports of the 2004 Athens Olympics. Make a "medals chart" for competitors from your country.



#### WORD FILE

<b>bell</b>	A metal object that makes a ringing sound.
<b>blind</b>	Not able to see.
<b>bronze</b>	A brown metal. Bronze medals are for 3rd place in a competition.
<b>champion</b>	The winner of an important competition.
<b>competitor</b>	A person who participates in a competition.
<b>disabled</b>	Unable to use part of your body.
<b>event</b>	An organised game or competition.
<b>gold</b>	A yellow metal. Gold medals are for 1st place in a competition.
<b>medal</b>	A round piece of metal for the winners of a competition.
<b>record</b>	The best result in a competition.
<b>rule</b>	Regulation.
<b>silver</b>	A white metal. Silver medals are for 2nd place in a competition.
<b>wheelchair</b>	A chair with wheels for people who cannot walk.
<b>win (v)</b>	To be first in a competition.

 <b>favorite</b>	 <b>favourite</b>
<b>organized</b>	<b>organised</b>

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS

### The Paralympics

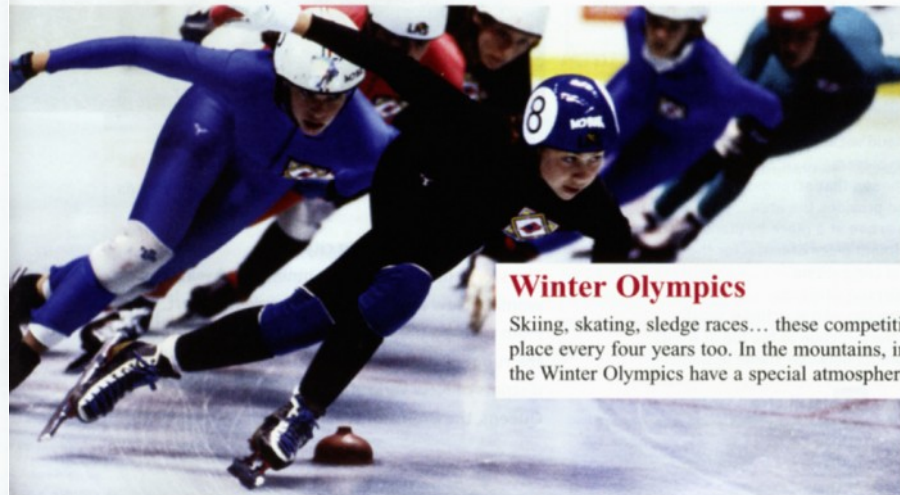
Every four years, disabled people have their Games, too. Some of the sports in these Paralympics are the same as the events in the Olympics, but with different rules. Some of the sports are different. Here are a few examples:

**Basketball and tennis:** they play these sports in wheelchairs.

**Goal-ball:** a special game for blind players. There is a bell in the ball, so they can hear it.

**Judo:** blind people compete in this.

These Games are very popular. The competitors are very good and the events are exciting. Every year, there are new records and new champions. They win gold, silver and bronze medals, just like in the Olympic Games. Disabled people are good sports people too.



### Winter Olympics

Skiing, skating, sledge races... these competitions take place every four years too. In the mountains, in the snow, the Winter Olympics have a special atmosphere.

Check if your favourite sport is in the Olympics. Who are the champions? What is the record?

