

Wednesday 14th July 2021

LO: To summarise a non-fiction text.



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Let's read the text again

Partner 1 read first section of the text while
partner 2 follow the text with the ruler.
Swap roles after each section



If you were recommending this text to someone,
how would you explain what it was about?

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Summarise the first part of the text in 20 words or less

I do

Thought to have started over 2,700 years ago in ancient Greece, the Olympic Games have a rich history but where did it all begin? Read on to find out about the first Games, how they ended and the resurfacing of the modern Olympic Games.

The First Olympic Games



It is believed that the first ancient Olympic Games were held in 776 BC. These Games took place in Olympia, Greece and were held every four years. Although sporting events played a large part, the main focus was as a religious ceremony to honour the king of the Greek gods, Zeus.

Zeus is said to have travelled to Olympia from his home in Mount Olympus in 1200 BC. He announced his visit by throwing his thunderbolt from Mount Olympus into Olympia. This became the setting for the first ancient Olympic Games.

As part of the festival, people would travel from all over Greece to visit the Temple of Zeus. The main event was the sacrifice of 100 oxen on an altar in honour of Zeus. The ashes of previously sacrificed oxen were collected over the years and formed the altar. By around AD 200, this was thought to be six metres high.

Key points:

- Starter 2,700 years ago.
- Zeus threw his thunderbolt to announce his arrival to Olympia.
- Main event used to be sacrifice of 100 oxen.

Summary:

Olympics started 2,700 years ago when Zeus threw thunderbolt to Olympia announcing his arrival. Main event was sacrifice of 100 oxen.



We do

Summarise this part of the text in 20 words or less

Ancient Olympic Events	
Running	During the running events, competitors would run up and down a track that was 192 metres long. Despite being rebuilt several times, the track always stayed the same length. Some people believe that this is because 192 metres is how long the Greek hero, Hercules, could run on a single breath.
Wrestling and Boxing	The wrestling and boxing matches seen at the ancient Olympic Games were more violent than those seen today. Competitors were expected to show that they had surrendered by raising a finger into the air. One of the most aggressive matches was known as pankration. In this match, the only rule was that you couldn't bite your opponent or poke them in the eye.
Long Jump	In this event, competitors would hold large weights (called halteres) in their hands and swing their arms around. This would propel them forward. A man playing a flute often accompanied the athletes; the music is thought to have helped them to accurately time their jump. 

Key points:

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Summarise the remaining text in 20 words or less

You do

1)

The Fall of the Ancient Olympic Games

When ancient Greece was invaded by the Roman Empire in the 2nd century BC, the Games continued. However, it is thought that the quality of the Games began to go downhill. In AD 67, a Roman emperor named Nero took part as a competitor in the chariot race (a dangerous race around a circular track on chariots led by horses). Although he fell off during the race, he still announced himself as the winner.

By AD 393, an emperor named Theodosius I had called for a ban of Pagan festivals. This meant that the ancient Olympic Games were cancelled after nearly 1,200 years.



2)

The Modern Olympic Games

Around 1,500 years after the ancient games were cancelled, a French baron named Pierre de Coubertin wanted to promote physical education. He suggested the idea of holding an international athletics competition every four years just like the ancient Games in Olympia. Two years later, this idea was accepted and he started the International Olympic Committee.

The first modern Olympic Games were held in 1896 in Athens, Greece. 14 different countries competed in a total of 43 events. Since then, the modern Olympic Games have been held every four years. Throughout their history, the modern Games have only been cancelled or postponed a total of four times. Once in 1916 due to the First World War, in 1940 and 1944 due to the Second World War and again in 2020 as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Finished?

Try to summarise the whole text in 30 words!

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