

CLIL8

The Ancient Olympics (adapted by: www.historyonthenet.com)

"The Ancient Olympics were held at Olympia, one of the sacred places of the ancient god Zeus. The earliest known record of an Olympic competition is 776BCE but it is thought that some kind of event may have been held for many years before that. One legend states that the games were started by Heracles while another states that they were started by a king who wanted to bring peace to the region. Women did not compete in the ancient Olympics and married women were not even allowed to attend as spectators. The male athletes did not wear any clothes and competed naked. At the first Olympic Games in 776BCE there was just one event - the Stade - a 200 metre (222 yard) race. Other events were added over time and by 100BCE the games lasted for five days.

Ancient Olympic Events

Sprinting/Running: Stade/Stadion - 200 metres, Dialous - 400 metres, Dolichos - 4800 metres, Hoplitodromos - 400 or 800 metres in full armour.

Combat/Fighting: Boxing, Wrestling, Pankration - violent martial arts style.

Other: Chariot Racing - The winner was the owner of the chariot rather than the rider, Pentathlon - Wrestling, Stadion, Long Jump, Javelin, Discus.

Winning an Olympic event was considered to be the greatest sporting achievement. The winner of each event was presented with an olive branch as a token of this achievement.

The Ancient games began to decline around 424BCE when Greece was at war with the Spartans and many young men had to go to war rather than devote themselves to athletics.

The games continued when the Romans invaded and conquered Greece but when the Emperor Theodosius came to power he banned all non-Christian events including the Olympic Games".

„The Ancient Olympics”

Task 1: TRUE or FALSE

		T	F
1	The Greek island Crete was a place of the Ancient Olympics.		
2	In 776 BCE first Olympic competitions were held.		
3	Heracles was the most important participant of Ancient Olympics.		
4	The competitions were only for men.		
5	The athletes didn` t have shoes and shorts.		
6	The <i>Stade</i> was the name for the Olympia Stadium.		
7	Swimming competition was the most popular event.		
8	The longest running competition was called <i>Dolichos</i> .		
9	The athletes lived in a big house called <i>Pankration</i> .		
10	The winner of a given sport competition became olives.		
11	During the war between Greeks and Spartans the Olympics were not popular.		
12	The Ancient Olympics had more events than the Modern Olympics.		

Vocabulary:

the sacred places = święte miejsca

to compete = współzawodniczyć

race = wyścig

events = wydarzenia

to last = trwać

armour = zbroja

chariot = rydwan

javelin = oszczep

achievement = osiągnięcie

BCE (Before Common Era) = p.n.e.