

# The Story of the Olympics: An Unofficial History

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1 1 l, 2 c, 3 m, 4 f, 5 e, 6 a, 7 j, 8 o, 9 k, 10 i, 11 b, 12 h, 13 n, 14 d, 15 g

2 One myth tells the story that Pelops, the king of Olympia, competed in a chariot race with another king, Oinomaos, because Pelops wanted to marry Oinomaos's daughter. Oinomaos's chariot was broken, so Pelops won the race. Another myth is that the first Olympic Games were funeral games held for Pelops after he died. When the Olympic Games began, Olympia was in the city state of Elis in the south-west of Greece, with olive trees and small hills all around. The Olympic Games were held during a religious ceremony for Zeus, the king of the gods, and for Hera, his queen.

3 1 T, 2 F, 3 F, 4 T, 5 T, 6 F, 7 T, 8 T, 9 F, 10 T

4 **Day one:** athletes registered; athletes promised to follow the rules

**Day two:** chariot races; horse races; pentathlon

**Day three:** track races

**Day four:** *wrestling*; boxing

**Day five:** prizes given

5

Name	Nationality	Job	What he did
Panagiotis Soutsos	<u>Greek</u>	<u>poet</u>	He was the <u>first person</u> who talked about <u>reintroducing</u> the Olympic Games.
Evangelis Zappas	<u>Greek</u>	<u>not known</u>	He wrote to <u>King Otto of Greece</u> . When he died, he gave all his money <u>to pay for</u> the modern Olympics.
William Penny Brookes	<u>English</u>	<u>doctor</u>	He sent money to <u>Athens</u> to buy <u>a prize for one of the winners</u> . He organized <u>England's first Olympic Games</u> in London.
Pierre de Coubertin	<u>French</u>	<u>aristocrat</u>	He organized <u>an International Athletics Congress</u> at the Sorbonne <u>University</u> in Paris.
Demetrious Vikelas	<u>Greek</u>	<u>writer</u>	He became the first president of the <u>International Olympic Committee / IOC</u> .
Georgios Averoff	<u>Greek</u>	<u>architect</u>	He gave more than <u>\$100,000</u> to renovate the Panathenaic stadium in <u>Athens</u> .
James Connolly	<u>American</u>	<u>athlete / triple jumper</u>	He was the <u>first medal winner</u> of the modern Games.
Spyros Louis	<u>Greek</u>	<u>athlete / marathon runner</u>	He was the first person to win <u>the first marathon</u> in Athens.

- 6
- 1 *There was no stadium and there were not many spectators.*
  - 2 The roads were hot and covered with dirt and horses and cars went in front of the runners.
  - 3 14.5 kilometres.
  - 4 The Olympics from dying out.
  - 5 In Great Britain, in London.
  - 6 In 1912.
  - 7 An athlete who won a gold medal in both the pentathlon and the decathlon.
  - 8 Forty-four.
- 7
- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1 <i>were given</i> | 7 were held    |
| 2 was introduced    | 8 were allowed |
| 3 was made          | 9 was changed  |
| 4 were used         | 10 was taken   |
| 5 was / used        | 11 was taken   |
| 6 was included      | 12 were shown  |
- 8 *100 metre, 400 metre, 1500 metre, 200 metre, 10,000 metre, 20,000 metre walk, team relays, hurdle events*
- 9 *1 d, 2 e, 3 b, 4 c, 5 a*
- 10 *100 metres, 110 metre hurdles, 200 metres, 400 metres, 1500 metres, decathlon, discus, fencing, heptathlon, high jump, horse-riding, javelin, long jump, modern pentathlon, pole vault, running, shooting, swimming*
- 11 Gymnastics are another of the **oldest** Olympic sports. They were popular in **Ancient** Greece and there have been gymnastics events at the modern Olympics since **1896**. In gymnastics, there are **no** races to win. Gymnasts compete in front of a group of **judges**, who give them a **score**, taking away points for every **mistake**. Until **1976** the judges had **never** given a gymnast a perfect score but in that year's Olympic Games in **Montreal**, Canada, fourteen-year-old Nadia Comăneci of **Romania** was awarded a perfect score for the **first** time. Not surprisingly, Nadia Comăneci won **three** gold medals, **one** silver and **one** bronze at these Olympics.
- 12 **Sports ending in -ing, which usually follow go:** *swimming, diving, canoeing, rowing, sailing, horse-riding, cycling, shooting, running, ice-skating, skiing, bobsledding*
- Sports that use a ball and/or ones that follow play:** *water polo, baseball, basketball, football, handball, hockey, softball, volleyball, badminton, table tennis, tennis*
- Other sports that usually follow do:** *boxing, wrestling, weightlifting, archery, fencing, judo, taekwondo, the triathlon*
- 13 a 6, b 7, c 2, d 4, e 3, f 9, g 8, h 5, i 1, j 10

14 1 B, 2 C, 3 A, 4 A, 5 C, 6 C, 7 A, 8 A, 9 B, 10 B

15

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Greek	England	Germany	Toronto
Dutch	London	Italy	Vancouver
Rome	British	Canada	Great Britain
Seoul	Sweden	Netherlands	
	Danish		
	Sydney		
	Athens		

16 Who will be the greatest athletes at the next Olympic Games? The 2012 Games are in London, Great Britain, and this makes London the only city that has hosted the Olympics three times. The 2016 Games are in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Some athletes will go home with no medals, others will become famous in their countries and around the world. What we do know is that there will be some incredible races, jumps, throws and games. The ancient Olympics went on for more than a thousand years. The modern Olympics are only a little more than a hundred years old, but they are the most important athletic competition in the world. Perhaps one day people will celebrate a thousand years of the modern Olympics!