The Story of the Olympics: An Unofficial History
Rachel Bladon

A  Before Reading

1  a  The Olympic Games has a long history. What do you know about it?
   1  When did the Olympic Games first start?

   2  What are two myths about how the Games started?

   3  The Olympic Games represent peace. What is the reason for this?

   b  Read the first two chapters to check your ideas.

2  a  Here are some pictures from the book. Match the words in the box to the things you can see in
the pictures.

   a cauldron  chariots  a flag

   1  

Alamy/E.Langsley Olympic Images
Why are these things important in the Olympics?
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
### B While Reading

Every chapter contains a lot of information about the Olympics. Match the chapter title with the information. The first two are done for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 The Olympics Today                        | a Greece
   The gods Zeus and Hera
   No fighting during the Games                   |
| 2 The First Games                            | b The International Olympic Committee
   The Olympic Village
   Traditions                                     |
| 3 The Ancient Olympics                       | c The Great Depression
   Invasions
   Apartheid                                     |
| 4 The Start of the Modern Olympics           | d Accommodation
   Millions of dollars
   Publicity                                      |
| 5 The Games Grow                             | e Cheating
   Drugs
   Terrorism                                      |
| 6 Olympic Sports and Great Olympians         | f Religion
   Plato and Aristotle
   Earthquakes                                     |
| 7 Events in History                          | g World records
   Bravery
   A perfect performance                          |
| 8 Problems at the Olympics                   | h A Greek poet, an English doctor, a French
   aristocrat, a Greek architect                   |
| 9 The Paralympics                            | i From the USA to Sweden
   Changes
   Women allowed                                   |
| 10 Today and into the Future                 | j The Second World War
   Stoke Mandeville Hospital
   Better health                                    |
4 Here are some famous Olympians. Who are they? What events can you see? Why were they important? Check your answers as you read.

a

Rex Features

b

Rex Features/P.Hillyard/Newspix

c

Corbis/Bettmann
C   After Reading

5   a  What sports are you most interested in?

________________________________________________________________________________

b  Which event would you like to watch at the Olympic Games?

________________________________________________________________________________

c  Has your country ever hosted the Olympic Games?

________________________________________________________________________________

d  What are the advantages of hosting the Olympic Games?

________________________________________________________________________________

6   Write a proposal to host the Olympic Games in your home town. What is special about your town? What facilities has it got? Where would you build the stadium? How would the Olympics help your home town? Write between 120 and 180 words.