

The First Olympic Games

Week 8 • Monday • Games for the Gods

Today's Goals

- ✓ Learn where and why the Olympics began.
- ✓ Find out who could compete.
- ✓ Discover what winners received.

Reading Time

Did you know the Olympic Games are almost 2,800 years old? The first recorded games were held in **776 BC** in a Greek town called **Olympia**. The games honored Zeus, king of the gods, and were held every **four years** — just like today!

Athletes came from city-states all over Greece. Even cities at war would agree to a special **truce** — a promise to stop fighting — so athletes could travel safely to the games. Sports could bring enemies together!

Winners did not get gold medals. Instead, they received a crown of **olive leaves** — and something even better: fame! Winners became heroes in their hometowns, with statues, songs, and free dinners for life.

Reading Questions

1. Where were the first Olympic Games held?

2. Which god did the games honor?

3. What did Olympic winners receive?

Vocabulary Grid

Write what each word means in your own words.

Olympics

Olympia

athlete

truce

compete

champion

True or False

Write T for true or F for false in each circle.

- ☐ The first recorded Olympics were in 776 BC.
- ☐ The games were held in a town called Olympia.
- ☐ The games honored the goddess Athena.
- ☐ Cities at war made a truce during the games.
- ☐ Winners received gold medals.
- ☐ The ancient games happened every four years.

• **Draw a Champion**

Draw an Olympic winner wearing a crown of olive leaves, with a cheering crowd.



Think About It

1. Why was the truce during the games such a big deal?

2. Would you rather win a gold medal or an olive crown and fame? Why?

Review

I learned...	Circle one
Where the Olympics began	YES / NOT YET
What winners received	YES / NOT YET