

# Language Arts

## Objectives

- ▶ To read and comprehend an essay
- ▶ To infer the meanings of unfamiliar words
- ▶ To follow directions
- ▶ To increase sports vocabulary

# Ancient Olympics

- ◆ List the vocabulary words
- ◆ Ask the students to read the essay and search for the underlined words in the puzzle. Words may be forwards, backwards, up or down.
- ◆ After finding all the underlined words, have students match the underlined words with the definitions.

## Optional

- ◆ Use the underlined words to practice long and short vowel pronunciation and marking.

## Materials

- Ancient Olympics Worksheet
- Pencils and paper
- Optional: Classroom dictionaries and encyclopedias.

# Ancient Olympics

▶ Name



Find the underlined words. Words may be forward, backwards, diagonal or vertical.

Olympic athletes today share the same spirit, but differ greatly from athletes in the ancient civilization of Greece. It is believed that the original Olympic Games began in Greece around 776 B.C.E. (Before Common Era). The Games were dedicated to the Greek god Zeus in the Valley of Olympia and consisted of only one footrace the length of a stade (about 200 yards).

For 13 Olympic Games, the footrace was the only event. The winner of the race was greatly rewarded and honored. Statues were carved and even poems were written about him. The victory was also celebrated in a ceremony at the shrine to Zeus. The first recorded Olympic champion was a Greek cook named *Koroibos*.

The Greeks believed that the greatest honor was to compete, not just win. Athletes were expected to display true sportsmanship, skill, courage and endurance. The Olympic spirit included a high regard for moral, mental and physical fitness.

The early Games were held very four years and only males were allowed to compete. Wars were even stopped at those times to allow men and boys the opportunity to be participants. Girls and women were not allowed to participate or even watch the Olympic Games for many years. Instead, they competed in games of their own at other times of the year.

After 13 Olympic Games had taken place, the footrace was extended to two stade. At successive Olympic Games additional events were included until eventually there were 24 varied games including boxing and wrestling, chariot races, and events for boys.

Instead of a one-day, one-sport event, the Games grew to five days. Up to 40,000 spectators, all men or boys would watch. Eventually the quality of the games changed and athletes were not always amateurs. Athletes began training 10 months in advance, non-Greeks were allowed to participate and prizes became greater until Emperor Theodosius I banned the Games in 393 C.E. (Common Era) Hundreds of years would pass before the Modern Olympic Games.

C	O	P	M	Y	L	O	U	P	O	D	P	J	R	
E	O	E	U	C	T	Z	L	L	Q	T	A	F	A	
R	W	M	M	I	E	V	Y	G	S	I	R	B	N	
E	J	S	P	U	K	M	H	G	R	Z	T	O	C	
M	G	E	S	E	P	O	N	A	O	S	I	E	I	
O	R	M	O	I	T	I	C	H	T	T	C	P	E	
N	E	A	A	B	X	E	S	S	A	R	I	G	N	
Y	E	G	Y	O	W	R	E	Z	T	O	O	P	D	T
Z	C	N	B	F	A	P	I	F	C	P	A	E	V	
K	E	G	C	W	W	L	K	N	E	S	N	N	R	
R	M	L	O	G	I	O	N	Q	P	R	T	I	J	
H	L	X	D	V	L	B	M	U	S	S	S	R	Q	
A	G	N	I	L	T	S	E	R	W	N	I	H	V	
O	M	C	H	A	R	I	O	T	Y	T	S	S	A	

# Ancient Olympics

▶ Name



## Match words with definitions

- \_\_\_\_\_ Times of long ago
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fighting with fists
- \_\_\_\_\_ Formal act or occasion to honor someone or something
- \_\_\_\_\_ The kind of life in a specific time or place or among certain people
- \_\_\_\_\_ Take part in a contest against another person
- \_\_\_\_\_ A country
- \_\_\_\_\_ A place in Greece
- \_\_\_\_\_ People who take part in an event
- \_\_\_\_\_ A place devoted to a religious object or person
- \_\_\_\_\_ People who watch an event take place
- \_\_\_\_\_ King of the ancient Greek Gods
- \_\_\_\_\_ Games held every four years
- \_\_\_\_\_ Conflicts between nations
- \_\_\_\_\_ A light, two-wheeled vehicle usually drawn by horses

WARS  
 CHARIOT  
 OLYMPICS  
 SHRINE  
 CIVILIZATION

PARTICIPANTS  
 SPECTATORS  
 GREECE  
 ANCIENT  
 COMPETE

CEREMONY  
 CIVILIZATION  
 BOXING  
 OLYMPIA