

## THE ANCIENT GREEK OLYMPIC GAMES

Once every four years, men from all over Greece came to compete in a great athletic festival. Only men, boys and unmarried girls were allowed to attend the Olympic Games. Married women were not allowed into the Olympic Games. This was called the Olympic games because the place was called Olympia, a valley near a city called Elis. The first Olympic Games were held in about 776BC. It was a religious festival to honor the Greek gods Zeus and Hera. The spectators came from all over Greece to watch the events.

At the first one-day Olympic Games, the only event was a short sprint from one end of the stadium to the other. Gradually more events were added to make four days of competitions. They included wrestling, boxing, long jump, throwing the javelin and the discus, and chariot racing. In the pentathlon, there were five events: running, wrestling, javelin, discus and long jump. One of the strongest events was the race for hoplites, men wearing armour and carrying shields.

Winners were given a wreath of leaves. Winners might marry rich women, enjoy free meals, invitations to parties, and the best seats in the theatre.

1.- When were the first Olympic Games?

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2.- Who took part in the Ancient Olympic Games? Were women allowed at the Olympic Games?

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3.- What events took place in the Ancient Olympic Games?

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4.- What is the pentathlon?

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5.- What prize is given to the winners?

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