

# Do the Olympics make the world better?

Map of Greek City States around 500 BC



## Supporting Questions

1. What were the Ancient Olympics like?
2. What were the athletes of the Ancient Olympics like?
3. What are the Modern Olympics like?
4. What are the athletes of the Modern Olympics like?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period \_\_\_\_\_

## 6th Grade Olympics Inquiry

### Do the Olympics Make The World Better?

<b>New York State Social Studies Framework Key Idea &amp; Practices</b>	<p><b>6.5 COMPARATIVE CLASSICAL CIVILIZATIONS IN THE EASTERN HEMISPHERE (ca. 600 B.C.E.–ca. 500 C.E.):</b> As complex societies and civilizations change over time, their political and economic structures also evolve. A golden age may be indicated when there is an extended period of time that is peaceful and prosperous and demonstrates great cultural achievements.</p> <p>✔ <b>Gathering, Using, and Interpreting Evidence</b>   ✔ <b>Comparison and Contextualization</b></p>
<b>Staging the Question</b>	<p>QFT: Use the Question Formulation technique to build curiosity about the ancient and modern Olympics. Please also use the provided <a href="#">picture placards</a> as stimulus.</p>

Supporting Question 1	Supporting Question 2	Supporting Question 3	Supporting Question 4
What were the Ancient Olympics like?	What were the athletes of the Ancient Olympics like?	What are the Modern Olympics like?	What are the athletes of the Modern Olympics like?
Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	
Students annotate texts and sort evidence into a graphic organizer.	Students annotate text, brainstorm corroborating evidence, and sort evidence into a graphic organizer.	Student annotate text and sort evidence into a graphic organizer.	Students annotate text, brainstorm author’s purpose, and sort evidence into a graphic organizer.
Featured Sources	Featured Sources	Featured Sources	
<p><b>Source A:</b> List of Ancient Olympic Games</p> <p><b>Source B:</b> Description of Ancient Olympic Games</p> <p><b>Source C:</b> Primary Source Accounts of the Olympic Games</p>	<p><b>Source D:</b> Pausanias of Damascus</p> <p><b>Source E:</b> Stories of Ancient Greek Athletes.</p>	<p><b>Source F:</b> List of Modern Olympic Sports</p> <p><b>Source G:</b> Video: Living the Olympic Values</p> <p><b>Source H:</b> “What Is Olympism?” excerpt from <i>Olympism and the Olympic Movement</i></p> <p><b>Source I:</b> Newsela Pros/ Cons of Moving the Olympics</p>	<p><b>Source J:</b> Interview of Ibithiaj Muhammad</p> <p><b>Source K:</b> Michael Phelps Article</p>

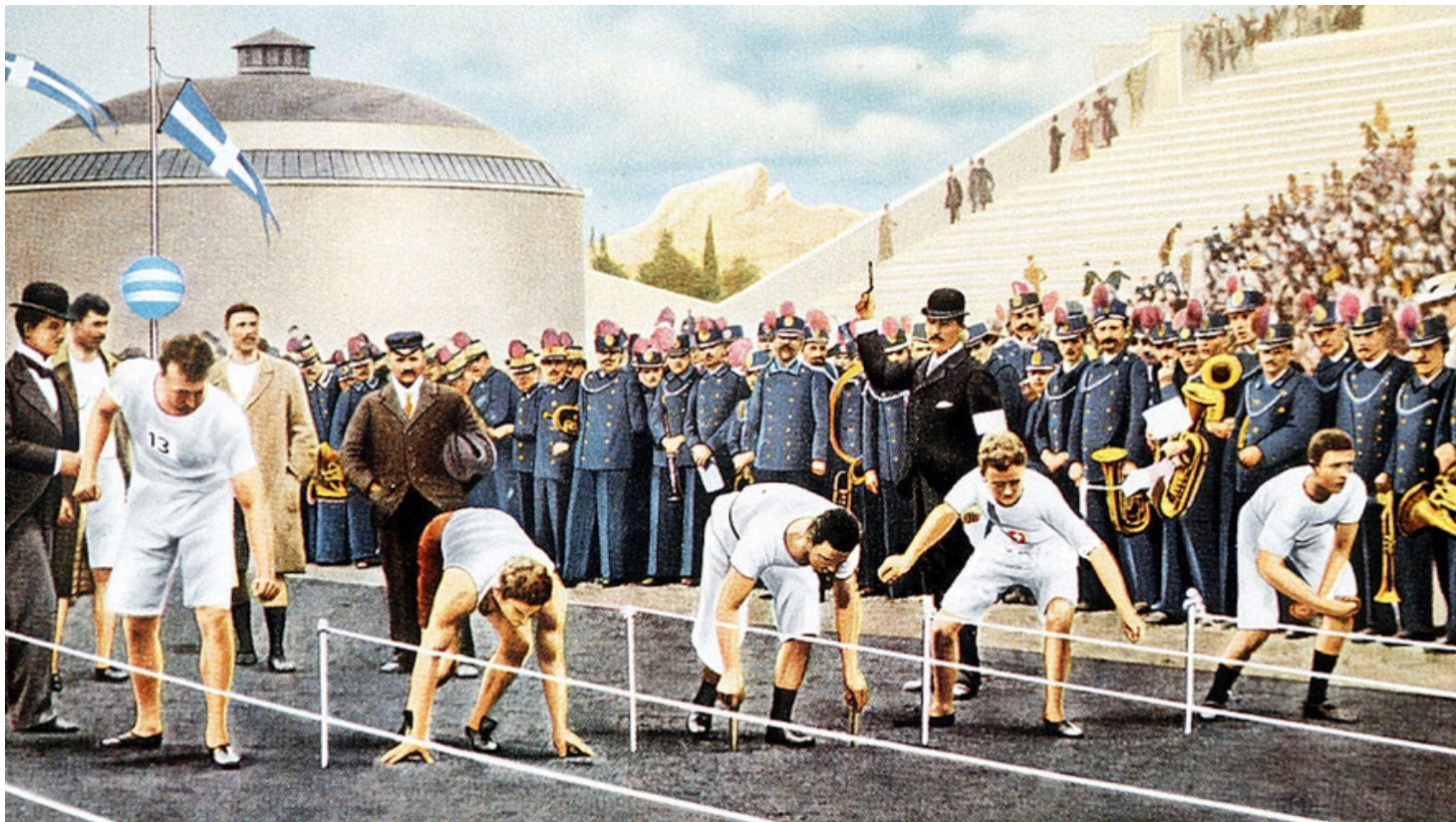
<b>Summative Performance Task</b>	<p><b>ARGUMENT</b> Do the Olympics make the world better? Construct an argumentative essay using specific claims and relevant evidence from the sources that explains to what extent the Olympics do or do not make the world a better place. You can focus on any aspect of the Olympics such as the athletes themselves, Olympic venues, or the relationships between different countries (city-states).</p>
<b>Taking Informed Action</b>	<p><b>UNDERSTAND</b> Identify why participating in sports is beneficial to students and the school community.</p> <p><b>ASSESS</b> Design a plan to implement one or more ideals of Olympism in the school or district.</p> <p><b>ACT</b> Implement one or more ideals of Olympism in the school or district.</p>

# A History of the Olympic Games

By History.com, adapted by Newsela staff on 06.19.17

Word Count **801**

Level **930L**



A painting of the 100-meter race at the 1896 Olympics in Athens, Greece. It was the first Olympics held in 1,500 years since the games had ended during the Roman Empire. Painting from the public domain

The Olympic Games began in ancient Greece more than 3,000 years ago. From 700 B.C. to the A.D. 300s, the Games were held every four years in Olympia, Greece. They were in honor of the god Zeus. The first modern Olympics took place in 1896 in Athens, Greece. Almost 250 athletes from 14 nations competed in 43 events. This became the world's most famous sporting competition. The Olympics have been held every four years, except during the two world wars. Then starting in 1994, the Winter Olympic Games were held two years before the Summer Olympic Games.

The first written records of the ancient Olympic Games date to 776 B.C. Coroebus, a cook, became the first Olympic champion. He won the only event – a 192-meter (693 feet) footrace, called the stade. The arena where the stade took place became known as the "stadium."

However, many believe that the Games had been going on for many years. Greek mythology told of Heracles, son of Zeus (Hercules, the son of Jupiter to the Romans) who started the Games. By the end of the 600s B.C., the Olympics had become the most famous of all Greek sporting festivals. The ancient Olympics were held every four years between August 6 and September 19. The Games

were named for their location at Olympia, near the western coast of southern Greece. Ancient historians began to measure time by the four-year period between Olympic Games. Each four years was known as an Olympiad.

### **No women were allowed to participate**

After 13 Olympiads, two more races joined the stade: an 400-meter race and a race that was between 1,500 and 5,000 meters. The pentathlon (five contests) was added in 708 B.C., which included a foot race, a long jump, throwing the discus and javelin, and a wrestling match. Boxing was added in 688 B.C. Chariot racing became an Olympic event eight years later. Pankration, which was combined boxing and wrestling in a violent sport with almost no rules, began in 648 B.C. Only men could compete in the games. Married women were not even allowed to attend the Games.

Even though the Roman Empire conquered Greece in the mid-2nd century B.C., the Games continued. But the quality and fairness in the contests began to change. One famous example from A.D. 67 involved Emperor Nero. He entered the chariot race, fell off his chariot, but at the end of the race announced that he was the winner. About 225 years later, Roman Emperor Theodosius I, a Christian, felt that festivals honoring the pagan Greek gods must end. So the Olympic games were banned. They would not be seen again for the next 1,500 years.



In the late 1800s, French leaders began to stress the importance of physical education. In November 1892, a meeting in Paris planned for new Olympic Games where athletes from around the world would compete every four years. Two years later, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) was started. It makes the rules for the Olympic Games.

### **Fourteen nations participated in the first modern Olympics**

The first modern Olympics were held in Athens, Greece, in 1896. In the opening ceremony, King Georgios I and a crowd of 60,000 spectators welcomed 250 athletes from 14 nations who would compete in 43 events. They included track and field, gymnastics, swimming, wrestling, cycling, tennis, weightlifting, shooting and fencing. Since then, there have been Olympic Games every four years. But, no Games took place in 1916, during World War I, and in 1940 and 1944, during World War II. The official symbol of the modern Games is five interlocking colored rings, which represent the continents of North and South America, Asia, Africa, Europe and Australia.

800 BC  
700 BC  
600BC  
500BC  
400BC  
300BC  
200BC  
100BC  
0  
100CE  
200CE  
300CE  
400CE  
500CE  
600CE  
700CE  
800CE  
900CE  
1000CE  
1100CE  
1200CE  
1300 CE  
1400CE  
1500CE  
1600CE  
1700CE  
1800CE  
1900CE  
2000CE

776 BC - The first written records of the ancient Olympics show that Corbeus became an Olympic champion running the stade.

Directions: As you read the background essay underline the dates that things happened and circle what did happen. When needed, do the math. Pick the six most important dates and put them on this timeline. Draw a box. Write the date it happened and summarize the event in the box. Then draw an arrow to when it happened on this timeline. The first one is an example for you.

## Supporting Question 1: What were the Ancient Olympics like?

### Featured Source

**Source A:** List of Ancient Olympic Sports. Accessed at "<https://www.olympic.org/ancient-olympic-games/the-sports-events> 1/27/2020

**Directions:** As you read this source underline text that you believe is about a positive part of the Ancient Olympics. Circle any text that you believe could show a negative part of the Ancient Olympics. Add any inferences to the margins.

**The ancient Olympic Games were initially a one-day event until 684 BC, when they were extended to three days. In the 5th century B.C., the Games were extended again to cover five days. The ancient Games included the following sporting events:**

**Pentathlon** - The Pentathlon became an Olympic sport with the addition of wrestling in 708 B.C., and included the following: running, jumping and a discus throw.

**Running** - Running contests included the stade race, which was the pre-eminent test of speed, covering the Olympia track from one end to the other (200m foot race), the diaulos (two stades - 400m foot race), and the dolichos (ranging between 7 and 24 stades).

**Jumping** - Athletes used stone or lead weights called halteres to increase the distance of a jump. They held onto the weights until the end of their flight, and then jettisoned them backwards.

**Discus Throw** - The discus was originally made of stone and later of iron, lead or bronze. The technique was very similar to today's freestyle discus throw.

**Wrestling** - This was highly valued as a form of military exercise without weapons. It ended only when one of the contestants admitted defeat.

**Boxing** - Boxers wrapped straps (himantes) around their hands to strengthen their wrists and steady their fingers. Initially, these straps were soft but, as time progressed, boxers started using hard leather straps, often causing disfigurement of their opponent's face.

**Pankration** - This was a primitive form of martial art combining wrestling and boxing, and was considered to be one of the toughest sports. Greeks believed that it was founded by Theseus when he defeated the fierce Minotaur in the labyrinth.

**Equestrian Events** - These included horse races and chariot races and took place in the Hippodrome, a wide, flat, open space.

## Supporting Question 1: What were the Ancient Olympics like?

### Featured Source

**Source B:** Description of the Ancient Greek Games. Secondary Source. Accessed at: <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/Olympics/rel.html>

**Directions:** As you read this source underline text that you believe is about a positive part of the Ancient Olympics. Circle any text that you believe could show a negative part of the Ancient Olympics. Add any inferences to the margins.

### The Greek city-states and the religious festival

One difference between the ancient and modern Olympic Games is that the ancient games were also a religious festival. The Games were held in honor of Zeus, the king of the Greek gods, and a sacrifice of 100 oxen was made to the god on the middle day of the festival. Athletes prayed to the gods for victory, and made gifts of animals, produce, or small cakes, in thanks for their successes.

Over time, the Olympic Games flourished. A Stadium was built for the games, although to us today it looks more like just a field.

Olympia also became a central site for the worship of Zeus. Individuals and communities donated buildings, statues, altars and other dedications to the god.

According to legend, an altar to Zeus was built in Olympia on a spot struck by a thunderbolt, which had been hurled by Zeus from his throne high atop Mount Olympus.



This alter was the most spectacular sight at Olympia. The alter had a gold and ivory cult statue of Zeus enthroned, which was made by the sculptor Pheidias and placed inside the temple. The statue was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, and stood over 42 feet high. A spiral staircase took visitors to an upper floor of the temple, for a better view of the statue. The picture to the left is what a modern artists imagines that statue of Zeus would have looked like.

## Supporting Question 1: What were the Ancient Olympics like?

### Featured Source

**Source C:** Accounts of the Ancient Olympic Games. Secondary Source. Accessed at: <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/Olympics/rel.html>

**Directions:** As you read this source underline text that you believe is about a positive part of the Ancient Olympics. Circle any text that you believe could show a negative part of the Ancient Olympics. Add any inferences to the margins.

### The Olympic truce

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A truce, or temporary end to all wars, was announced before and during each of the Olympic festivals, to allow visitors to travel safely to Olympia. An inscription describing the truce was written on a bronze discus which was displayed at Olympia. During the truce, wars were suspended, armies were prohibited from entering Elis or threatening the Games, and legal disputes and the carrying out of death penalties were forbidden.



## Supporting Question 2: What were the athletes of the Ancient Olympics like?

### Featured Source

**Source D:** Pausanias of Damascus, select descriptions of the history of the ancient Olympic games, "The Olympic Games, History," excerpt from *Description of Greece*, around 150 CE, translated by W. H. S. Jones (Modified SCSD)

**Directions:** As you read this source underline text that you believe shows how the Ancient Olympics brought out the positive in ancient athletes. Circle any text that you believe shows how the Ancient Olympics brought out the worst in ancient athletes. Add any inferences to the margins.

When the tradition of the Olympiads began there was first the foot-race, and Coroebus an Elean was the winner. There is no statue of Coroebus at Olympia, but his grave is on the borders of Elis. Afterwards, at the fourteenth Festival, a foot race that was twice as long was added. Hypenus of Pisa won the prize of wild olive in the longer foot race.

At the eighth Festival they began the pankration for men and the horse-race. The horse-race was won by Crauxidas of Crannon, and Lygdamis of Syracuse overcame all who entered for the pankration. Lygdamis has his tomb near the quarries at Syracuse, and according to the Syracusans he was as big as Heracles of Thebes, though I cannot vouch for the statement.

The race for men in armor was approved at the sixty-fifth Festival, to provide, I suppose, military training; the first winner of the race with shields was Damaretus of Heraea.

Sotades at the ninety-ninth Festival was victorious in the long race and proclaimed a Cretan, as in fact he was. But at the next Festival he made himself an Ephesian, being bribed (given money) to do so by the Ephesian people. For this act he was banished (kicked out) by the Cretans.

Public domain. Theoi Greek Mythology website: <http://www.theoi.com/Text/Pausanias5A.html>.

## Supporting Question 2: What were the athletes of the Ancient Olympics like?

### Featured Source

**Source E:** Stories of Ancient Greek Athletes. Tufts University Compilation Accessed at:  
<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/Olympics>

**Directions:** As you read this source underline text that you believe shows how the Ancient Olympics brought out the positive in ancient athletes. Circle any text that you believe shows how the Ancient Olympics brought out the worst in ancient athletes. Add any inferences to the margins.

### Milo of Kroton

It is no great thing to possess strength, whatever kind it is, but to use it as one should. For of what advantage to Milo of Kroton was his enormous strength of body?... Diodorus Siculus, *Historical Library*, 9.14.1

The most illustrious of athletes... Strabo, *Geography*, 6.1.12



One of the most legendary athletes in the ancient world, Milo of Kroton, wore the victor's crown at Olympia no less than six times. Born in southern Italy, where Greece had many colonies, Milo won the boys' wrestling contest in 540 BCE.

He returned eight years later to win the first of five consecutive wrestling titles, a feat that seems incredible by modern standards. Rarely do modern-day Olympians compete in more than two or three Olympiads over the course of a career. Much like the boxer George Foreman, Milo resisted retirement: By the time of the 67th Olympiad in 512 BCE, Milo was probably forty or more years old but he competed anyhow. The challenger won not by overpowering Milo, but by avoiding the older wrestler and wearing him out.

According to our ancient sources, Milo enjoyed showing off his unrivaled strength. For instance, he would clasp a pomegranate in his hand and have others try to take it away from him. Even though he was holding it so tightly that no one could remove it, he never

damaged the fruit. Sometimes, he would stand on a greased iron disk and challenge others to push him off of it. Another of his favorite exhibitions was tying a cord around his forehead, holding his breath, and breaking the cord with his bulging forehead veins. Other times, the wrestler would stand with his right arm at his side, his elbow against him, and hold out his hand with thumb pointed upwards and fingers spread. No one could successfully bend even his little finger.



Olympia L191

Stone of the weight lifter Bybon with inscription "Bybon son of Phola (?), has lifted me over [his] head with one hand." 316 lbs., sandstone. Early 6th century BC.

Photograph by Maria Daniels, courtesy of the Archaeological Museum of Olympia and the Greek Ministry of Culture.

Milo excelled even in warfare. When a neighboring town attacked Kroton, Milo entered the battle wearing his Olympic crowns and dressed like Herakles (shown in the picture below), in lion's skin and brandishing a club, and led his fellow citizens to victory.



A follower of the famous philosopher Pythagoras, Milo once saved his friends. It happened that the roof of the hall where the Pythagoreans were meeting began to collapse. Milo stood and supported the central pillar until the others escaped to safety and then dashed out, saving himself.

In the end, however, all of this fame and strength did not save Milo from a less than glorious death. Milo was wandering through the forest when he found an old tree trunk with wedges inserted into it. In an attempt to test his strength, Milo placed his hands and, perhaps his feet, into the cleft of the trunk and tried to split apart the wood. He succeeded in loosening the wedges, which fell out, but the trunk closed on his hands, trapping him. There, according to the tale, he fell prey to wild beasts.

## Sourcing and Corroborating “Milo of Kroton”

Directions: After reading the story of the Greek athlete Milo of Kroton answer the questions below.

1. Where was this source found? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Based on the .edu web address what type of people probably put this source on the internet? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What are the boxes at the beginning of the story? Why might you need to look up to help you understand these boxes? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What do the pictures in the article show? Are they primary sources or secondary sources? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Do the pictures prove that the story is true? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you think that the pictures show that the story of Milo could possibly have happened? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Read the excerpt from Wikipedia about Milo of Kroton below. Base your answers to the questions after it on the contents of the passage and the structure of the passage.

## Death

The Ancient Greeks typically attributed remarkable deaths to famous persons in keeping with their characters.<sup>[2]</sup> The date of Milo's death is unknown, but according to [Strabo](#) (VI, 1, 12) and [Pausanias](#) (VI, 14, 8), Milo was walking in a forest when he came upon a tree-trunk split with wedges. In what was probably intended as a display of strength, Milo inserted his hands into the cleft to rend the tree. The wedges fell from the cleft, and the tree closed upon his hands, trapping him. Unable to free himself, the wrestler was devoured by wolves.<sup>[1][2][3]</sup> A modern historian has suggested it is more likely that Milo was traveling alone when attacked by [wolves](#). Unable to escape, he was devoured and his remains found at the foot of a tree.

## References

1. *Spivey, Nigel Jonathan (2004). [The Ancient Olympics](#). Oxford and New York: [Oxford University Press](#). pp. 65–66, 100–101. [ISBN 978-0-19-280433-4](#). Retrieved 2009-03-01.*
2. *Poliakoff, Michael B. (1987). [Combat Sports in the Ancient World](#). New Haven and London: [Yale University Press](#). pp. 117–119, 182–183. [ISBN 978-0-300-03768-5](#). Retrieved 2009-03-01.*
3. *Harris, H.A. (1964). [Greek Athletes and Athletics](#). London: [Hutchinson & Co](#). pp. 110–113. [ISBN 978-0-313-20754-9](#).*

7a. Does this passage corroborate, or prove truthful, the original story about Milo's death? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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7b. What features of this particular Wikipedia entry make it more likely to be true? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Directions:** As you read this source underline text that you believe shows how the Ancient Olympics brought out the positive in ancient athletes. Circle any text that you believe shows how the Ancient Olympics brought out the worst in ancient athletes. Add any inferences to the margins.

## Theagenes of Thasos

His ambition was, I think, to rival Achilles by winning a prize for running in the fatherland of the swiftest of those who are called heroes. The total number of crowns that he won was one thousand four hundred. ... Pausanias, *Description of Greece*, 6. 11. 5

At the young age of nine, Theagenes of Thasos became famous throughout Greece. It seems the boy was walking home from school, when he noticed a bronze statue of a god in the marketplace of Thasos. For some, strange reason, but probably out of admiration, Theagenes tore the statue from its base and took it home. This act outraged the citizens, who perceived it as highly disrespectful, and they debated whether or not they should execute the child for his deed. One elder, however, suggested that they have the boy return the statue to its proper place. Theagenes did this, his life was spared, and word of this amazing feat spread across Greece.

At the 75th Olympiad, Theagenes had designs on winning both the boxing prize and the pankration prize.



Tampa 86.30  
Side A: boxer at right.  
Photograph by Maria Daniels, courtesy of the Tampa Museum of Art.

After defeating the boxer Euthymos, Theagenes was too tired to win a second crown for the pankration. Interestingly, the judges fined Theagenes for entering the boxing competition merely to spite Euthymos. Furthermore, Theagenes did not box in the 76th Olympiad. Pausanias implies that this was what we might nowadays call "unsportsmanlike conduct."



Philadelphia 51-32-1

Shoulder panel: two boxers.

Photograph by Maria Daniels, courtesy of The University of Pennsylvania  
Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology

In addition to his two Olympic victories, one in boxing and one in the pankration, Theagenes won numerous victories in other games. When he traveled to Phthia, the traditional home of the legendary hero of the *Iliad*, "swift-footed" Achilles,

Theagenes decided to compete in the footrace. Of course, he won.

Following his death, the people of Thasos memorialized Theagenes with a bronze statue. Allegedly, a man who never won a match against Theagenes came every night to the statue and beat it. One night, the statue came loose, fell on the angry opponent, and killed him. His sons prosecuted the statue for murder, a perfectly reasonable action under Greek law. (The Greeks felt that all murders must be punished, whether or not the murderer was a person, animal, or even an object!) The Thasians dropped the guilty statue of Theagenes into the ocean, presumably settling the matter. Then, in later years, famine and plague struck Thasos, and the people sought the advice of the oracle, who told the islanders to welcome back all exiles. The Thasians followed this command, but the crops still did not grow. Once more, they asked the oracle for assistance. The priestess replied that they had forgotten the great Theagenes. After some fishermen retrieved the statue of the athlete, the people of Thasos repositioned the statue in its original place, and they sacrificed to him as a healing god.

### Corroborating the Story of Theogenes

After analyzing the Story of Theogenes what questions would you ask to figure out if the Story of Theogenes was true?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
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- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



## Supporting Question 3: What are the Modern Olympics like?

Featured Source

Source F: List of Modern Olympic Sports. Accessed at "<https://www.olympic.org/ancient-olympic-games/the-sports-events> 1/27/2020

Source F Questions:

Based on Source A and Source F, How are the ancient and modern Olympics alike? How are they different?

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### SUMMER SPORTS



ARCHERY



ARTISTIC SWIMMING



ATHLETICS



BADMINTON



BASEBALL - SOFTBALL



BASKETBALL



BEACH VOLLEYBALL



BOXING



CANOE SLALOM



CANOE SPRINT



CYCLING BMX



CYCLING MOUNTAIN BIKE



CYCLING ROAD



CYCLING TRACK



DIVING



EQUESTRIAN / DRESSAGE



EQUESTRIAN EVENTING



EQUESTRIAN JUMPING



FENCING



FOOTBALL



GOLF



GYMNASTICS ARTISTIC



GYMNASTICS RHYTHMIC



HANDBALL



HOCKEY



JUDO



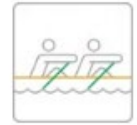
KARATE



MARATHON SWIMMING



MODERN PENTATHLON



ROWING



RUGBY



SAILING



SHOOTING



SKATEBOARDING



SPORT CLIMBING



SURFING



SWIMMING



TABLE TENNIS



TAEKWONDO



TENNIS



TRAMPOLINE



TRIATHLON



VOLLEYBALL



WATER POLO



WEIGHTLIFTING



WRESTLING FREESTYLE



WRESTLING GRECO-ROMAN

## WINTER SPORTS



ALPINE SKIING



BIATHLON



BOBSLEIGH



CROSS COUNTRY SKIING



CURLING



FIGURE SKATING



FREESTYLE SKIING



ICE HOCKEY



LUGE



NORDIC COMBINED



SHORT TRACK



SKELETON



SKI JUMPING



SNOWBOARD



SPEED SKATING

## Supporting Question 3: What are the Modern Olympics like?

### Featured Source

**Source G:** Video: Living the Olympic Values:  
<https://www.olympic.org/videos/living-the-olympic-values>

Used with permission. ©International Olympic Committee.

**Directions:** As you watch this video source write down notes that summarize the Olympic values of the modern games. Next check the box to show if this value might improve the world or make the world worse in the graphic organizer below.

In this video I learned that Olympic values.....	This feature of the Olympic values will.....
	<input type="checkbox"/> Improve the World <input type="checkbox"/> Make the World Worse
	<input type="checkbox"/> Improve the World <input type="checkbox"/> Make the World Worse
	<input type="checkbox"/> Improve the World <input type="checkbox"/> Make the World Worse
	<input type="checkbox"/> Improve the World <input type="checkbox"/> Make the World Worse
	<input type="checkbox"/> Improve the World <input type="checkbox"/> Make the World Worse

## Supporting Question 3: What are the Modern Olympics like?

### Featured Source

**Source H:** International Olympic Committee, "What Is Olympism," excerpt from the report *Olympism and the Olympic Movement*, 2012 (Modified)

**Directions:** As you read this source underline text that you believe is about a positive part of the Modern Olympics. Circle any text that you believe could show a negative part of the Modern Olympics. Add any inferences to the margins.

**What is Olympism?** *The Olympic Creed - "The important thing in life is not the triumph, but the fight; the essential thing is not to have won, but to have fought well."*



### What is Olympism?

Olympism is a philosophy of life which places sport at the service of humanity. The philosophy is based on the interaction of the body, will and mind. Olympism is expressed through actions which link sport to culture and education.

This philosophy is an essential element of the Olympic Movement and the celebration of the Games. It is also what makes them unique.

The IOC has identified the following three Olympic values:

**Excellence** In the Olympic ideal, this value refers to giving one's best, on the field of play or in life, without measuring oneself with others, but above all aiming at reaching one's personal objectives with determination in the effort. It is not only about winning, but mainly about participating, making progress against personal goals, striving to be and to do our best in our daily lives and benefiting from the combination of a strong body and mind.

**Friendship** Men and women are at the center of the Olympic Movement's focus on encouraging understanding between people. We believe in building a better world through solidarity

(togetherness), team spirit, joy and optimism in sport.

**Respect** In the Olympic ideal, this value represents the idea that you should have respect for oneself and one's body, respect for one another, for rules and for the environment. It thus refers to the fair play that each athlete needs to display in sports.

Used with permission. ©International Olympic Committee. [http://www.olympic.org/documents/reports/en/en\\_report\\_670.p](http://www.olympic.org/documents/reports/en/en_report_670.p)

# PRO/CON: Should the Olympics stay in one place?

By Tribune News Service, adapted by Newsela staff on 08.18.16

Word Count **1,303**

Level **940L**



In this July 2015 photo, the Olympic Park for the 2016 Olympics is under construction in Rio de Janeiro. The Olympics offers 28 sports, 300 events, 10,500 athletes and, with the exception of five football venues, are all packed into Rio for 17 days. The Paralympics add two more weeks, and thousands more athletes. AP Photo/Leo Correa, File

## PRO: Billions of dollars could be used to help other people

The Olympics are in need of financial help.

There's nothing better at the end of summer than cheering on American swimmers Katie Ledecky and Michael Phelps, or watching the United States women's gymnastics team. But the price tag for hosting the games has soared too high. That's why we need to consider permanent sites for the Summer and Winter Games.

The Olympics has been a financial disaster for Brazil. Still, it has gone on as scheduled in Rio de Janeiro, even though the country had to pay for a security force of 85,000 soldiers and police officers because of street crime. They've gone on even though it would have been better for Brazil to spend the money on affordable housing and clean water than on expensive new stadiums. And they've gone on even though the final price tag will probably exceed \$20 billion.

“We are in a moment in the world where we need to be reasonable with the way we spend money,” said Fernando Meirelles, who directed the opening ceremonies. “When 40 percent of the homes in Brazil have no sanitation, you can’t really be spending (billions) for a show.”

That’s a message that the International Olympic Committee needs to hear.

### **Choosing A Permanent Place**

The idea of permanent Olympic sites dates back more than 30 years.

In 1984, F. Don Miller and William Simon of the U.S. Olympic Committee proposed permanent sites. They wanted one each in the Americas, Europe, Asia and Africa. According to their plan, the Olympic Games would switch between them.

Where exactly should the permanent sites be? Why not ask the athletes? Former and current medal winners would know the top facilities in their sport.

It might make sense for Greece to be among the permanent sites, too. That's where the Olympics started more than 3,000 years ago.

What would this change accomplish?

First, it would end the insane competition to host the games. It would help put a stop to the bribes and corrupt behavior that some cities use to win this bidding war. More importantly, it would allow cities to instead spend money on helping their people.

### **Saving Cities Billions Of Dollars**

Montreal in 1976, Athens in 2004 and now Rio have spent their citizens’ money for the chance to throw a party for rest of the world. These cities spent billions of dollars they didn't have. Unfortunately, the cost to host the games continues to rise. The 2008 Summer Games in Beijing cost more than \$42 billion. Six years later, Sochi in Russia spent more than \$50 billion for the Winter Games.

Costs will only continue to rise with the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo. There, one new stadium will cost \$2 billion. That is even higher than the construction costs of Yankee Stadium in New York and MetLife Stadium in New Jersey.

The IOC gets a lot of money from selling the rights to advertise at the games and to broadcast them on TV. It could give this money to the permanent sites to help them stay up to date. Then, new facilities for the next Summer or Winter Games wouldn't be needed.

Of course, the world doesn't usually operate in such a logical, fair way. But by using permanent sites, the IOC would also have a chance to improve its bad reputation. Fewer costs for facilities would mean more money for everyone. IOC officials could give money to countries in need of medication or food assistance.

Such programs would help fix the image of the games. The Olympics have been full of scandals in recent years. Athletes have illegally used drugs to be faster or stronger. In Rio, there have been reports of polluted water. The IOC should be eager to do something to make the organization look better.

Now's their chance.

*A graduate of Syracuse University, Tim Wendel is the author of 11 books, including "Going for the Gold" and "Summer of '68." He is the writer in residence at Johns Hopkins University's Washington, D.C. campus.*

## CON: The Olympics allow all people to feel national pride

It would be wrong to host the Olympic Games only in Greece, or in permanent sites on five continents. This would reduce the majesty and the international quality of the Games.

This year's Rio Games have faced many problems that have led some people to call for new ways of planning the games. Currently, nations compete for the chance to host the Olympics. Some think they should be held in permanent facilities in North and South America, Europe, Asia and Africa, instead.

This would be a serious mistake. It would deny countries an opportunity to show their national pride and improve their economies. Most importantly, it would deprive them of the chance to make history.

The Olympics represent a country's ultimate opportunity to show its national identity to the world.

### **Celebrating Recovery From War And Ruin**

For example, the 1964 Tokyo Olympics marked an important moment in Japan's history. The games restored Japan's national pride after the country's defeat in World War II. It also started Japan's long, successful climb toward becoming an economic power.

Those Olympics helped rebuild Japan's public transportation network. A high-speed train connecting Tokyo to Osaka, a city more than 300 miles away, started running just days before the games. The main section of the Metropolitan Expressway, the highway system in central Tokyo, was renovated. Tokyo's television broadcasting system was also improved. This led many Japanese citizens to purchase new TVs.

During the 2012 Olympics in Great Britain, polls showed that a majority of British men felt more national pride because their country was hosting the games. This is important for a nation.

### **Bigger Than The Games Themselves**

The Olympics have also made history for reasons much bigger than the games themselves.

The 1936 Olympics were held in Berlin. Adolf Hitler, Nazi Germany's leader, wanted to show the world that Aryan people, meaning whites who came from Northern European, were superior to everyone else. An African-American athlete named Jesse Owens proved him wrong. Owens was the most successful athlete of the 1936 Games.

Owens also became the first American to win four track and field gold medals at a single Olympics. His record was not broken for 48 years.

The fact that Owens accomplished this in Berlin made his achievements even more meaningful. Hitler wouldn't have been as humiliated if the Olympics had been held in another country.

## Olympics Belong To The World

Another example happened in 1956. That year, the Olympics were held in Melbourne, Australia. Back then, the rest of the world did not know much about Australia. Holding the Summer Games there made the rest of the world more excited to watch them.

An armed conflict in Hungary had threatened to ruin the 1956 Games. That year, the Soviet Union sent tanks into Hungary. People in Hungary were revolting against the communist policies that the Soviet Union supported. In a communist system, the government owns all of the businesses in a country. The Soviet Union was trying to crush the revolution in Hungary.

Shortly afterward, the Soviet water polo team competed against the Hungarians.

Hungary got the world's attention by winning by 4-0. The match turned ugly after a Hungarian player was pulled bleeding from the pool with a deep gash over his eye from a Soviet head butt. But the brave Hungarians persevered.

The Olympics belong to the world, not to any single nation. Any major city that wants to pay for the Olympics should be able to host them.

*Whitt Flora, an independent journalist, covered the White House for The Columbus Dispatch. She was also the chief congressional correspondent for Aviation Week & Space Technology magazine.*



## Supporting Question 4: What are the athletes of the Modern Olympics like?

### Featured Source

Source K - Primary Source: Michael Phelps Says the Secret To His Success Is the Thing Most People Overlook. Accessed at: <https://www.cnbc.com/2017/02/14/olympic-hero-michael-phelps-says-this-is-the-secret-to-his-success.html> (2017)

**Directions:** As you read this source underline text that you believe shows how the Modern Olympics brings out the positive in athletes. Circle any text that you believe shows how the Olympics brings out the worst in athletes. Add any inferences to the margins.



Swimming sensation Michael Phelps spent countless hours in the pool training to become the most decorated Olympian in history.

He also spent countless hours in bed, sleeping.

Phelps says training and sleeping were equally critical when it came to acquiring his stack of 28 Olympic medals.

“At a very young age I learned how important sleep was,” says Phelps, who spoke to CNBC about his training habits from the New York City showroom of direct-to-consumer mattress brand Leesa. The Olympian has recently entered into a four-year brand partnership with the company.

**“I really can’t say it enough. I don’t think people really pay enough attention to how important sleep is.” - Michael Phelps**



### OLYMPIC SWIMMER

Sleep is “where you can naturally grow and your body recovers,” says Phelps.

When Phelps was training for the Olympics, he swam seven days a week, covering between 70,000 and 100,000 yards a week.

As part of his workout regimen, Phelps tracked not only how much sleep he got but how deeply he slept. He made note of the quantity and quality of his sleep and data points such as whether he was getting REM sleep, deep sleep or light sleep.

“I really can’t say it enough. I don’t think people really pay enough attention to how important sleep is,” says Phelps. He was in the pool three to five hours a day seven days a week. To maintain that workout schedule, Phelps slept eight hours a night and took a 2-3 hour nap each afternoon, he says.

Now, though he’s retired from swimming, Phelps still tries to get at least eight hours of shut eye a night. But, since he has a nine-month-old baby, that’s a challenge worthy of an Olympian.

## Sourcing and Corroborating

Directions: To source and corroborate sources J and K please answer the following questions. Refer to the articles to find your answers.

### “Going to the Gold” Interview of Ibitiaj Muhammad in Essence Magazine, August 2016.

1. Where was this interview published originally? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Is this interview a primary source or secondary source? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What do you think is the intended audience of Essence Magazine? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What could you do if you wanted to corroborate this interview to make sure that the story is true?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

“Michael Phelps Says the Secret To His Success Is the Thing Most People Overlook.” Accessed at:

<https://www.cnbc.com/2017/02/14/olympic-hero-michael-phelps-says-this-is-the-secret-to-his-success.html>

1. Where was this article published originally? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What do you think is the intended audience of [www.cnbc.com](http://www.cnbc.com) ? Why?

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3. Is this article a primary source or secondary source for studying the modern Olympics? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What is the main idea of the article? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Do you have any reason to question if this article is telling you the complete truth about Michael Phelps's thoughts? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. What could you do if you wanted to corroborate this interview to make sure that all aspects of it are true?

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Name ..... **Text Supporting Question 1 Graphic Organizer** .....

<b>CLAIM:</b> The Ancient Olympics made the world a better place.		
<b>Supporting Evidence</b>	<b>Supporting Evidence</b>	<b>Supporting Evidence</b>
(Reference: ) (Reference: ) (Reference: )		

<b>CLAIM:</b> The Ancient Olympics did not make the world a better place.		
<b>Supporting Evidence</b>	<b>Supporting Evidence</b>	<b>Supporting Evidence</b>
(Reference: ) (Reference: ) (Reference: )		

Name .....

# Text Supporting Question 2 Graphic Organizer



**CLAIM:**

The Ancient Olympics made the athletes better people and therefore the world a better place.

**Supporting Evidence**

**Supporting Evidence**

**Supporting Evidence**

(Reference: )

(Reference: )

(Reference: )

**CLAIM:**

The Ancient Olympics did not make the athletes better people and therefore the world was not a better place.

**Supporting Evidence**

**Supporting Evidence**

**Supporting Evidence**

(Reference: )

(Reference: )

(Reference: )



Name ..... Text Supporting Question 3 Graphic Organizer .....

**CLAIM:** The Modern Olympics make the world a better place.

Supporting Evidence	Supporting Evidence	Supporting Evidence
(Reference: ) (Reference: )	(Reference: ) (Reference: )	(Reference: ) (Reference: )

**CLAIM:** The Modern Olympics do not make the world a better place.

Supporting Evidence	Supporting Evidence	Supporting Evidence
(Reference: ) (Reference: )	(Reference: ) (Reference: )	(Reference: ) (Reference: )

**CLAIM:** The Modern Olympics make the athletes better people.

<p><b>Supporting Evidence</b></p>	<p><b>Supporting Evidence</b></p>	<p><b>Supporting Evidence</b></p>
(Reference: ) (Reference: )	(Reference: ) (Reference: )	(Reference: ) (Reference: )

**CLAIM:** The Modern Olympics do not make athletes better people.

<p><b>Supporting Evidence</b></p>	<p><b>Supporting Evidence</b></p>	<p><b>Supporting Evidence</b></p>
(Reference: ) (Reference: )	(Reference: ) (Reference: )	(Reference: ) (Reference: )





