

HA Resource Hub Submission Form

Resource Title: Olympics – Ancient and Modern

Age Range: KS2

Author name and email contact:

Jonathan Gower

jonathan.gower@gmail.com

Resource Details:

This is a **compilation of resources** about the Olympics previously published in **Primary History**.

It is designed to be **used independently** by children and families.

It consists of a front-cover **task sheet** and then is followed by a set of **resources**.

Necessary prior learning to complete this:

This resource will make most sense if children have been learning about Ancient Greece.

What does it lead to next?

Further learning about Ancient Greece.

Explanation: How should this resource be used?

Children can be asked to work through the tasks in order or to choose tasks to complete.

Olympics – Ancient and Modern

1. Look closely at a Greek sculpture

- Look at the sculpture of **Discobulus**. What three things do you notice immediately?
- Write five questions that you would like to ask this athlete.
- What could the answers to your questions tell you about the Ancient Greek Olympics?

2. Research the Ancient Greek Olympics

- Research the Ancient Greek Olympics. Can you find ways that they are similar to the modern Olympics? How were they different?

These websites might help your research:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z87tn39/articles/z36j7ty>

<https://www.historyforkids.net/ancient-greek-olympics.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jA6Y7gG3OLs>

3. Learn about the Games of Heraea

- Look closely at the **Bronze Sculpture**. Why might someone be surprised to discover that this was made in Ancient Greece? Write five questions that someone could research about this sculpture.
- Read about the **Games of Heraea**
- Answer the **Games of Heraea – Questions**

4. Learn about Dorando Pietri

- Look closely at the photo of **Dorando Pietri**. What do you notice happening? What questions could you ask to find out more?
- Read this article which tells the story:
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/1908-Olympic-Games-Falling-at-the-Finish-1367949>
- Think about the story. Do you think Pietri deserved to become a celebrity? Should he have been disqualified? Give 3-5 reasons for your opinions. Do you think his story could happen today? Explain why.

5. Research famous Olympians

- Choose two of the **Famous Olympians**.
- Find out more about them and their story. How are they similar? How are they different?
- Decide how you could present your findings. You could make a table showing the similarities and differences or you could design two labelled illustrations.

Discobulus



This is a Roman copy of the original Greek sculpture

Bronze Sculpture



This bronze figurine of a female runner was possibly made in or near Sparta, Greece, between 520-500 BCE.

Games of Heraea

This is a description written by Pausanias, a Greek traveller and writer who lived in the second century AD. He is writing about the temple of Hera. He says that there is a group of sixteen women who look after the temple...

The length of the temple is one hundred and sixty-nine feet, the breadth sixty-three feet, the height not short of fifty feet. Who the architect was they do not relate.

Every fourth year there is woven for Hera a robe by the Sixteen women, and the same also hold games called Heraea. The games consist of foot-races for maidens. These are not all of the same age. The first to run are the youngest; after them come the next in age, and the last to run are the oldest of the maidens.

They run in the following way: their hair hangs down, a tunic reaches to a little above the knee, and they bare the right shoulder as far as the breast.

These too have the Olympic stadium reserved for their games, but the course of the stadium is shortened for them by about one-sixth of its length.

To the winning maidens they give crowns of olive and a portion of the cow sacrificed to Hera. They may also dedicate statues with their names inscribed upon them.

Games of Heraea – Questions

- 1. How often do the games take place?**
- 2. What races happen at the games?**
- 3. What order do the women run in?**
- 4. What clothes are worn for the games?**
- 5. How is the course different to the men's course?**
- 6. What prizes are given to the women?**

In what ways are these games different to the modern Olympics? How are they different?

What do these games tell us about the beliefs of people at the time? What did they think was important? How are these beliefs similar and different to yours?

Games of Heraea – Possible Answers

1. How often do the games take place?

They take place every four years.

2. What races happen at the games?

The only race that happens is a foot-race.

3. What order do the women run in?

They youngest run first and then oldest run last.

4. What clothes are worn for the games?

They wear a tunic for racing.

5. How is the course different to the men's course?

The course is one-sixth shorter than the men's.

6. What prizes are given to the women?

The winners receive a crown of olive and a portion of the cow sacrificed to Hera.

In what ways are these games different to the modern Olympics? How are they different?

Dorando Pietri



Famous Olympians

Usain Bolt, Jamaican sprinter, 3 times world and Olympic gold medallist. Interesting for the pupils to consider: What can you do in 10 seconds?

Charlotte Reingale Cooper was the first woman to become an Olympic champion when she won the tennis in the 1900 Paris Games.

Cynisca of Sparta, Spartan female charioteer who owned and trained a medal winning team.

Tom Daley, represented Britain in diving in the 2008 Olympics. Source of inspiration to young people as he talks openly about how he was bullied as a child.

Haile Gebrselassie the Ethiopian long distance runner who acquired his skill by running 20km a day to attend school.

Ludwing Guttmann, the German neurologist who went on to establish the Paralympics while living in England.

Lis Hartel, the Danish equestrian champion from the 1950s who lost the use of her legs through polio yet still went on to compete successfully.

The Jamaican bobsleigh team, who first entered the Winter Olympics in 1988 and became the inspiration for the film *Cool Runnings*.

Florence-Griffith (Flo-Jo) Joyner, who could be considered the fastest woman of all time. She sadly died in 1998 of epilepsy at the age of only 38.

Jesse Owens, winner of 200m, 400m, 4x100m relay and long jump at the 1936 Berlin Games. There are several children's books to support study, including Monroe, J (2005) *Jesse Owens*; Coughlan Sutcliffe, J (2001) *Jesse Owens, Minneapolis, First Avenue*; Adler, J. (1992) *A Picture Book of Jesse Owens*, New York, Holiday House.

Steve Redgrave, who won gold medals in 5 consecutive Olympic Games between 1984 and 2000 for rowing. Works actively for many charities and overcame dyslexia.

Derek Redmond, the UK sprinter whose career was blighted by a series of injuries. He is best remembered for his performance at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona in the 400 metres semi-final where he fought through pain and, with help from his father, managed to complete a full lap of the track.

Wilma Rudolph, who overcame polio to win 3 gold medals at the Rome games in 1960. Krull, K. (1996) *Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World's Fastest Woman*, Harcourt – ISBN 0-15-201267-2 will support study.

Babe Zaharias, the US athlete who won medals in 1932 and then went on to achieve in a number of sports while fighting cancer.