

Book: Ancient Greeks

Pages 40-45

Students: Fill in the answers and return for assessment

Everything here is based on our Curriculum Visions book Ancient Greeks. You can open this book online now by clicking on the book cover. It will open in a new window or tab.

In this segment, we are going to learn more about the ancient Olympic Games and how they influenced modern sports and the modern Olympics.

You will need to go to pages 40-41 of the book.

Part 1

The ancient Olympics had many different purposes over time. What were some of these?

Answer ...

As a religious rite; as a sporting contest; as a truce from warfare

Part 2

What was the first Olympic event? After the games were lengthened to five days, what events were held?

Why do you think the number of days and the number of events increased over time?

Answer ...

The first event was a 200m race. Later there were eight competitions, including: boxing, chariot racing, wrestling, running, armed combat, boxing, discus, archery and javelin.

Answers will vary but may include: so they could have longer truces; to honour the gods more or honour more gods; to make more money; to include more people

Now turn to pages 41-42 of the book.

Part 3

Who could attend the games? What prizes did the winners receive?

Answer ...

Only men, boys and young (unmarried) girls could attend. The winners won a laurel crown, but also honour and glory and were often rewarded by patrons and rulers with money.

Part 4

Take a look at the site of the ancient Olympic games on pages 42-43. Why do you think the stadion and other places where the games were held were located next to temples to the gods?

Answer ...

Answers will vary but should include: because the games also had a religious purpose.

Now turn to pages 43-45 of the book.

Part 5

Why did the ancient Olympic games end?

Answer ...

They were outlawed by the Emperor Theodosius, who was a Christian and saw the games as a pagan festival and a threat to Christianity.

Part 6

Imagine that you are a reporter in ancient Greece during the time of the Olympic Games. Write a short article about the games - you may want to describe what will happen or what did happen on each of the five days, or on just one of the days, about the announcement of the Olympic truce, about the opening ceremony, about a fictional athlete competing in one of the events, or about some other aspect of the games.

Answer ...

Students' own answers.

Part 7

Review pages 40-45 of the book. What are some of the differences between the ancient Olympic games and the Olympic games held today? You may want to read about or discuss the modern Olympic games in class first.

Answer ...

Answers may include: only men and boys could attend the ancient games, anyone can attend the modern games; only men could participate in the ancient games, anyone can participate in the modern games; the ancient games had a religious role, the modern games do not; there are many more sports in the modern games; the modern games are split into winter and summer Olympics, the ancient games only had summer events; the modern games last longer - etc.

That is the end of this lesson, and you can now turn to another one. Also, find out if your teacher has left you any other worksheets or special instructions on your school website.

If you are interested in this topic, continue to browse the book and watch our amazing videos. They start right on the book cover.

Or you may need to see related books. If so just go to the top of the screen, select History and from the page that opens choose Ancient Greeks.

Remember, too, you can go to our safe search and type in any word about Ancient Greek times.