

Name: _____ Date: _____

Quiz: The Ancient Olympics

Test your knowledge about the ancient Olympic Games. Carefully read each question, and circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. In the earliest Olympic Games, athletes competed wearing:
 - a. Armor
 - b. Loincloths
 - c. Nothing at all

2. Which of the following groups could neither watch nor participate in the Olympics?
 - a. Married women
 - b. Slaves
 - c. Foreigners
 - d. All of the above

3. The Olympics were held in honor of this Greek god:
 - a. Zeus
 - b. Apollo
 - c. Ares
 - d. Hera

4. What is the long-distance race known as the marathon named for?
 - a. The swift-footed Greek god of messengers.
 - b. The hometown of Dikon, the track superstar of his day.
 - c. A town north of Athens, where the Athenians won an important battle against invading Persians.

5. What were winners of Olympic events crowned with?
 - a. Wreathes of laurel
 - b. Chaplets of wild olive
 - c. Circlets of gold

6. Athletes sought to bring glory and honor not only to themselves but to:
 - a. Their favorite god.
 - b. Their city-states.
 - c. All of Greece.

7. What is an olympiad?
 - a. An athlete competing in the Olympic Games.
 - b. An ancient Greek unit of time.
 - c. A famous statue of the Greek hero Herakles that athletes rubbed for luck.

8. Olympia, site of the Games, was also home to one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Which wonder was it?
 - a. The ivory, gold-adorned statue of Zeus sculpted by the legendary Phidias.
 - b. The Olympic Stadium.
 - c. The Colossus of Rhodes.

9. Which of the following was not an Olympic event?
 - a. Boys' boxing and wrestling.
 - b. A foot race in which contestants wore armor.
 - c. A mounted archery tournament.

10. To be eligible to compete in the Games athletes had to:
 - a. Train faithfully for ten months before the Games, remain under the eyes of officials for a month, and take an oath that they had fulfilled the training requirements.
 - b. Train faithfully for ten months, sacrifice a ram to Zeus, and take an oath to bring honor to their city-state.
 - c. Win contests at smaller festivals, train faithfully for ten months, and fast for three days before the Games.

Answer Key: Quiz: The Ancient Olympics

1. [b. Loincloths] Initially athletes competed wearing loinclothes. When the long run was added to the Games in 720 B.C., 56 years after the first recorded Olympics, the loincloth was abandoned and athletes began competing naked.
2. [d. All of the above] Married women were not allowed to attend the Games under penalty of death. However, a woman named Callipateira wanted to see her son compete and disguised herself as a male trainer. Her gender was discovered as she cheered her son on. Fortunately her family had influence and she was spared punishment. Thereafter, however, all trainers were required to strip before entering the stadium.
3. [a. Zeus] Both Apollo and Hera were also honored with athletic games; the Pythia and the Herae, respectively.
4. [c. A town north of Athens, where the Athenians won an important battle against invading Persians.] The Greek god of messengers is Hermes. Dikon was actually from Caulonia, but he was bribed by Syracuse to claim he was born there. In 490 B.C., an outnumbered Athenian army met Persian invaders at the village of Marathon, just north of Athens. An Athenian runner, Pheidippides, was dispatched to Sparta to seek aid. Although the Spartans didn't arrive in time, the Athenians managed to win. Pheidippides then ran to Athens to proclaim the victory. After running 150 miles in two days, he collapsed and died.
5. [b. Chaplets of wild olive] The chaplet of wild olive was plaited from a branch of a tree, the Olive of Kallistephanos (beautiful crown), which grew near the temple of Zeus. Unofficially, Olympic winners got more than a crown of leaves. They often received lavish gifts from their cities and medals and poems were commissioned to celebrate their victories.
6. [b. Their city-states.] The Olympics were very nationalistic in character. Cities and towns erected statues in honor of their local champions and victory in the Games was often honored more than victory on the battlefield.
7. [b. An ancient Greek unit of time.] An olympiad is a four-year period that begins with the Olympic Games.
8. [a. The ivory, gold-adorned statue of Zeus sculpted by the legendary Phidias.] The Stadium was not considering one of the seven wonders, and the Colossus was not located in Olympia.

9. [c. A mounted archery tournament.] Boy's boxing and wrestling was added to the Olympics in 632 B.C. and the armored foot race debuted in 580 B.C.
10. [a. Train faithfully for ten months before the Games, remain under the eyes of officials for a month, and take an oath that they had fulfilled the training requirements.] All the eligibility requirements had to do with an athlete's training.