

Sixth Grade World History

Directions: Highlight and annotate the following paragraph in order to complete the graphic organizer.

Activity 2 Graphic tools are useful to help us organize the information we have read. The graphic tools below focus on sequence and comparison. Can you organize the information using the graphic tools?

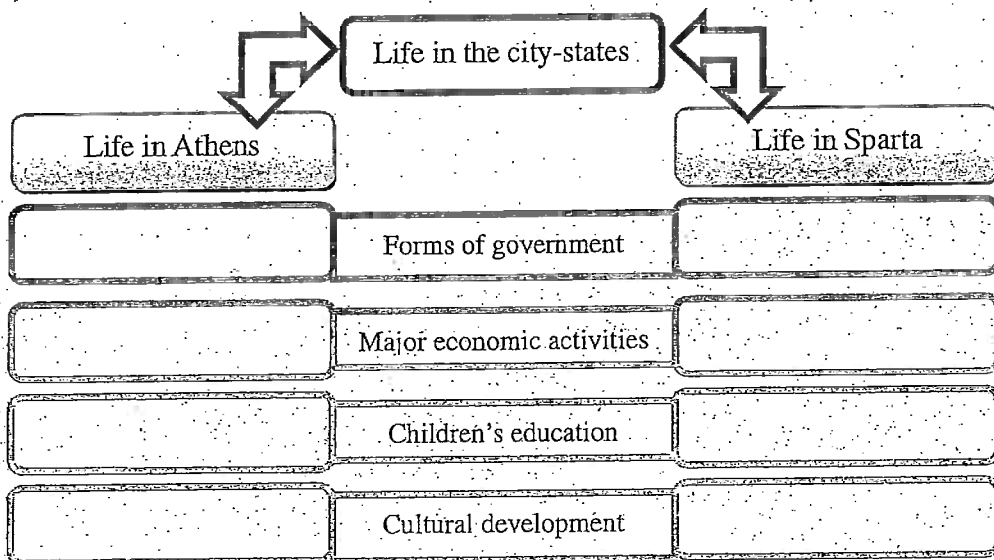
Life in the city-states of Ancient Greece

Ancient Greek civilization began with the rise of the city-states in Greece in about 800B.C. Of the 150 city-states of ancient Greece, Athens and Sparta were the strongest and most well-known though the two city-states were very different in culture and lifestyle. Athens lies on the southern coast of the Greek peninsula while Sparta is located on the southern inland areas of the peninsula. Athenians developed their own democratic forms of government and citizens in Athens could join the assembly to discuss politics. Spartans, on the other hand, were ruled by kings and elders. Athenians were mainly farmers, fisherman, craftsmen and traders while most Spartans were farmers. Children in Athens were sent to schools to be educated but children in Sparta were trained to fight in battle at an early age. Athenians were religious people and loved art and learning but Spartans were warlike people with a strong army.

Life in the city-states of Ancient Greece

Refer to the passage; compare the life in Athens with that of Sparta. How was life different in the two city-states?

Use your venn diagrams and Greece packets to help you.



Greek Mythology

Directions: Using the following reading, answer the corresponding questions. Highlight and annotate the text identifying what is important.

Mount Olympus

Mount Olympus is Greece's highest mountain range. Its highest peak, Mytikas, rises to 9,577 feet. It is located on the borders of Thessaly and Macedonia. Mount Olympus, in Greek Mythology, was the home of the gods, specifically the Twelve Olympians.

The Twelve Olympians

The Twelve Olympians, also called the Dodektheon, were the principal gods in Greek Mythology. They were said to reside atop Mount Olympus. The Twelve Olympians are Zeus, Hera, Poseidon, Demeter, Ares, Athena, Apollo, Artemis, Hephaestus, Aphrodite, Hermes, and Dionysus. Hades was not one of the Twelve because he did not have a seat on the Mount as he spent almost all his time in the underworld. Hestia was originally one of the Twelve, but when Dionysus was offered a seat, the total number of Olympians became thirteen. Because thirteen was believed to be an unlucky number, Hestia chose to step down leaving the number of Olympians at twelve.

Zeus

Zeus was the king of the gods and the ruler of Mount Olympus. The Romans called him Jupiter. Zeus was the god of the sky and thunder. His symbols were the thunderbolt, eagle, bull, and oak.

Zeus was the youngest son of Cronus and Rhea. Cronus, the king of the Titans, had swallowed all of Zeus's siblings (Poseidon, Hades, Hestia, Demeter, and Hera). He intended to swallow Zeus as well, but Rhea hid the newborn in a cave on Mount Dicte in Crete.

Zeus grew up and managed to cause Cronus to vomit up his sisters and brothers. The gods joined together to get control of the universe from the Titans. This accomplished, Zeus imprisoned most of the Titans in the underworld of Tartarus.

Zeus and his brothers, Poseidon and Hades, divided the world. Poseidon took the sea, Hades the underworld, and Zeus the sky.

Poseidon

Poseidon was the god of the sea, earthquakes, and horses. The Romans called him Neptune. His symbols were horses, sea foam, dolphins, and the trident. He was officially one of the supreme gods of Mount Olympus, but spent most of his time in his domain, the sea.

Poseidon could shift his shape and sometimes chose to be in the shape of a steed. He sometimes granted the shape-shifting power to others as well.

Hera

Hera was the goddess of marriage, women, and childbirth. The Romans called her Juno. She was the wife of Zeus and the Queen of the Olympians. Her symbols were the scepter, diadem, and peacock.

Demeter

Demeter was the goddess of fertility, agriculture, grain, and the harvest. The Romans called her Ceres. She was the sister of Zeus and the mother of Persephone. Demeter is usually shown carrying a sheaf of grain. Her symbols were the scepter, torch, and corn.

Aphrodite

Aphrodite was the goddess of love and beauty. She also protected sailors. The Romans called her Venus. Some say she was born from sea foam while others say she was the daughter of Zeus and Dione. She was the wife of Hephaestus. Her symbols were the scepter, myrtle, and the dove.

Paris, the Trojan prince, was asked to judge which of the three Olympian goddesses, Aphrodite, Hera, or Athena, was the most beautiful. He chose Aphrodite.

Athena

Athena was the goddess of wisdom, warfare, strategy, handicrafts, and reason. The Romans called her Minerva. She was the wisest of the gods. Her symbols were the owl and olive tree. Her brother was Ares.

She was the daughter of Zeus and Metis, though her birth was very strange. Zeus was warned that a son born to Metis would usurp his throne and so when Metis became pregnant, Zeus swallowed her. Eventually, Zeus got such a splitting headache that he asked Hephaestus for help. Hephaestus hit Zeus's forehead with an ax and Athena came out fully armed.

Ares

Ares was the god of war, murder, and bloodshed. The Romans called him Mars. His father was Zeus and his sister was Athena. His symbols were vultures, dogs, boars, and the spear.

Ares was handsome, but cruel. He is often shown carrying a bloodstained spear and his throne on Mount Olympus was said to be covered in human skin.

Dionysus

Dionysus was the god of wine, parties, and merriment. The Romans called him Bacchus. He was the son of Zeus and the mortal Semele. His symbols were the grape vine and ivy.

Dionysus was the god who granted Midas the golden touch. Once that ability proved inconvenient to Midas, Dionysus was kind enough to take the power back.

Apollo

Apollo was the god of music, poetry, prophecies, archery, medicine, and healing. The Romans, like the Greeks, called him Apollo. He helped Paris slay the mighty fighter Achilles with an arrow. He was the son of Zeus and Leto, and the brother of Artemis.

Apollo was often shown playing the lyre, which was one of his symbols along with the bow and laurel. He was given the lyre by Hermes as compensation for cattle theft. Some said Apollo invented the lute.

Hephaestus

Hephaestus was the god of fire, the forge, and blacksmiths. The Romans called him Vulcan. He was the son of Zeus and Hera. He built incredible palaces for the gods atop Mount Olympus. He created the armor for Achilles for the Trojan War. His symbols were the ax, hammer and flame.

Artemis

Artemis was the goddess of the hunt, wild things, and the moon. The Romans called her Diana. Her brother was Apollo, her parents Zeus and Leto. Her symbols were the bow, dogs, and deer.

Artemis was often shown as a young woman wearing buckskins. She carried a bow and a quiver of arrows and was often with wild creatures like a stag or she-bear.

Hermes

Hermes was the messenger of the gods and the guide of the dead to the underworld. He was the god of flight, thieves, mischief, commerce, and travelers. The Romans called him Mercury. He was the son of Zeus and a mountain nymph. His symbol was winged boots.

He was said to have created the first lyre on the first day of his life by stringing sinews across an empty tortoise shell. He appears in more myths than any other god.

Hades

Hades was not one of the Twelve Olympians, though he was Zeus's brother. His domain, where he stayed, was the underworld. The Romans called him Pluto. He took Demeter's daughter Persephone to the underworld with him but was convinced to allow Persephone to only stay there with him for half of the year and to return to the upper world the other half of the year. He had a three headed dog, Cerberus, which was also his symbol.

Hestia

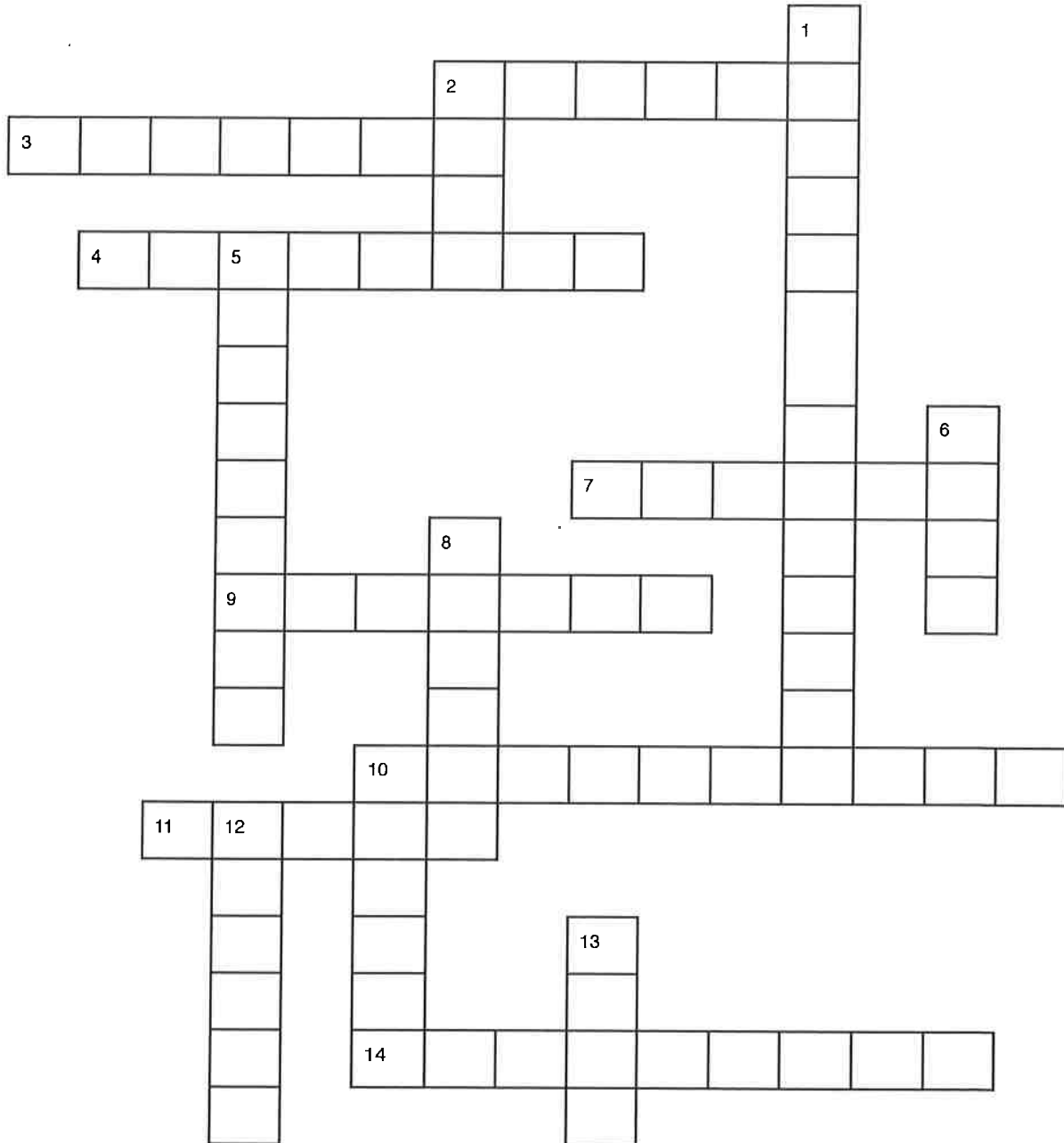
Hestia was not one of the Twelve Olympians. She was the goddess of the hearth and home. The Romans called her Vesta. She was Zeus's sister, but gave up her seat as one of the Twelve Olympians to Dionysus. Her symbol was the hearth.

★ Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

The Twelve Olympians

1. What is another name for the Twelve Olympians?
2. What were the Twelve Olympians?
3. Where did the Twelve Olympians live?
4. What were the names of the Twelve Olympians?
5. Why didn't Hades have a seat on the Mount?
6. Why did Hestia give up her seat as one of the Twelve?

Twelve Olympians Crossword Puzzle



Across	Down
2. Had same name in Greece and Rome	1. Where the Olympians lived
3. Goddess of agriculture	2. Had a throne covered with human skin
4. Symbols were the grape vine and ivy	5. Major gods were the Twelve _____
7. Number of Olympians	6. King of the gods
9. Called Diana by the Romans	8. Messenger of the gods
10. Built palaces for the other gods	10. Gave up her seat to Dionysus
11. God of the underworld	12. Born out of Zeus's forehead
14. Goddess of love and beauty	13. Wife of Zeus

The Ancient Games

Olympics Past and Present. Reporting today's Olympic Games is a technological masterpiece. It encompasses everything from world wide television relayed by space satellites to electronic high-speed computers, tallying the results of each event and delivering them around the globe [even as] athletes ... [participate in] their competition.

Electric timers measure performance and scoreboards flash instantaneous results to the assembled fans, who gather every four years to watch this celebration of sport.

Each event is carefully recorded with a sense of history by the organizers of the modern Olympics. But there was no such concern for records or history when the Games began in ancient Greece. If there had been, the recording of winners would have been much easier for the ancient Greeks than it is for the organizers of today's brief Olympic festivals, despite our advanced technology.

The reason? Simple. From all that historians can determine, there was only one event in the earliest meet at Olympia and it lasted no longer, perhaps, than 30 seconds!

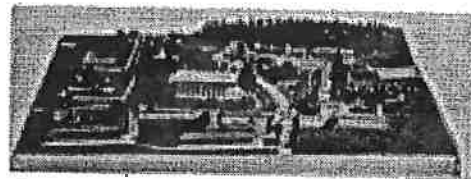
The first recorded champion at Olympia was a sprinter, Coroebus, a cook from the nearby Greek city of Elis. Running ... on a sandy course, he sped across the finish line under the gaze of thousand of Greeks to win a foot race that was approximately 630 feet long - or one *stade* - from which the word stadium was derived. His feat won him a wreath of olive leaves.

That was in 776 B. C. The year became important for later Greek historians. Starting in about 300 B.C. they dated everything by the *Olympiad*—the periods of 4 years between Games—that began with that first record foot race.

The Perfect Man. As far back as we can trace the civilization of ancient Greece, there was a reverence of the athlete. The Greeks believed that the body of man has a glory, as well as his mind; that both mind and body need discipline, and that by such discipline men best honored Zeus. From time to time they held great ceremonies of Games, named for the area in which they took place—Pythian, Isthmian, Nemean, and above all, Olympian. The Olympian Games go back to the time of the first people to live in the valley of the Alpheus River. There, at Elis in the western Peloponnesus, was Olympia, "the fairest spot of Greece." In the spacious and charming valley from which snow-covered distant mountains can be seen, was one of the most famous sanctuaries of ancient Greece. The religious role of the sanctuary began thousands of years ago, long before the Games held there every four years to honor Zeus.

Olympia. As it happens we know a good deal about Olympia. It was brought to light, beginning in 1875, by German archeologists. The most important of the ruins they uncovered are those of a temple of Zeus that was in use about 2,500 years ago, and a temple of his wife, Hera, that is even older—about 2,900 years. The world-famous statue of Hermes by the sculptor Praxiteles, now in the nearby museum, was found in the Temple of Hera. The Temple of Zeus contained one of the Seven Wonders of the World -- a statue, larger than a two-story house, of Zeus on his throne, made by Phidias of ivory and gold.

The great desire of the cities near the temple of Zeus was to win the favor of the gods by their show of reverence. So, by 500 B.C., Sparta, Elis, Athens, and Syracuse rivaled each other in the magnificence of their offerings to the temple.



An architectural model of Olympia (c. 150 A.D.) shows the columned Temple of Zeus in the center of the sacred grove, the Temple of Hera (center, rear) the ceremonial reception hall (left front), the house of priests (left, center), and the palaestra (left, rear).

Intense Training. Whatever the earliest religious ritual at Olympia may have been, over the years it evolved into a festival of the state. To it, to enter themselves in the festival Games, went candidates from all parts of Greece. They were tested in the gymnasium at Elis before they were allowed to compete at Olympia. The ten-month training at Elis was considered the most valuable preparation athletes could undergo. They lived in the *gymnasium* (from the word for naked) and practiced all day, every day, under the eyes of professional trainers. Officials of Elis decided who could compete and, later, who should get the prizes.

Athletes from Elis won the first 13 Olympic races. Only the Doric peoples of the Peloponnesus participated originally. Other Greek tribes joined in later; then came the peoples from Crete, Rhodes, Sicily, Egypt, and Asia Minor. The Games served as a common link in the Hellenic world.

Ekecheiria—The Sacred Truce. Nothing was more important to the Greeks than the Games, and nothing was permitted to interfere with them—not even wars. During the month of the festival of religious rites and sporting events called the Hieromenia, trade ceased and a truce was declared in the constant bickering that existed between the Greek city-states. This Olympic peace was called the *Ekecheiria*. For as long as the Games lasted, no one under arms could enter Olympia. It was sacred ground.

Just how much the Games meant to the ancient Greeks can be gathered from one event. In 480 B.C. the festival of the Games was in process when a Spartan army had to defend Thermopylae, and with it all Greece, against Persian King Xerxes and his invaders. Although the very fate of their country was at stake, thousands of Greeks showed up at the stadium at Olympia to watching the championship round of the boxing competition.

Beginnings. Where and when did this business begin? The fables of ancient Greece offer many explanations. Greek poets told of a great duel between Zeus and his father, Kronos, one of the the Titans, for mastery of the world. Zeus won, and to honor him, a temple was raised in the valley of the sacred river Alpheus, below the mountain—the Kronion—where the titanic duel was fought.

Or there is the tale of Pelops and his duel of wits with King Oenomaus of Pisatis, the son of Ares, God of War. Oenomaus had a beautiful daughter named Hippodameia. The king had offered her hand in marriage to any suitor who could take the girl from her home by chariot and then outspeed Oenomaus when he pursued them.

Winning the race was vital because it was the custom of Oenomaus to execute the losers to prevent the fulfillment of an oracle's prophecy that he would die at the hands of his son-in-law. Thirteen suitors raced off with Hippodameia and each lost his life because the king had the fastest steeds.

Pelops studied the tactics of the losers and decided he needed help. So he made Myrtilos, the king's charioteer, an offer he couldn't refuse—half the kingdom if his master was defeated.

When the chase began, Oenomaus was confident that Pelops would end on a spear like all the other suitors. However, what he didn't know was the Myrtilos had damaged an axle on the regal chariot. As the king closed in on Pelops, the axle gave way and Oenomaus broke his royal neck in the crash, fulfilling the prophesy. So proud was Pelops of his cunning victory over Oenomaus that he instituted the contests as a memorial, and held them near Olympia in the fertile valley when he and others had chased for the hand of his bride, Hippodameia.

The First Olympics. While its origins are shrouded in myth and mystery, the festival at which Coroebus won his wreath in 776 B.C. was repeated at 4-year intervals for the next 1,200 years.

The first contestants at Olympia, who gathered in the autumn, were sprinters. The lone race was run on a straight track. Twenty athletes could take positions at the starting line, marked by grooved limestone blocks. A bugle blast was their signal to start.

Added Events. As Olympiad followed Olympiad, the contests increased in number and variety. The first expansion of the Games occurred in the XLV Olympiad, when a race covering two lengths of the stadium was added. Four years later a race of about three miles became part of the program. In 708 B.C. the five-event Pentathlon was introduced. It was designed to provide the ultimate in well-coordinated athletes. Contestants first competed in a jumping event, with the best finishers advancing to the spear (javelin) throw. The four best in that competition then advanced to the sprint race, where another athlete was eliminated. That left three for the discus. The two best of them wrestled for the Pentathlon championship.

The discus was a Greek favorite. The man who could throw it farthest was regarded as a greatest athlete. It was on a bronze discus, which Aristotle saw in the Temple of Hera, that the traditional laws governing the festival at Olympia was inscribed.

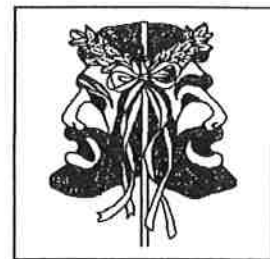
By 688 B.C. there were boxing contests in which the competition at first tied leather straps around their fists. Later they would fit metal rings on the straps and then metal knuckles.

Four-horse chariot races, first run in 60 B.C. were open to men rich enough to afford chariots and horses. From the beginning they were a spectacular and popular event very different from the older contests, which were mainly athletic or military in nature. Horse races were part of the festival in 648 B.C. They were run in a separate hippodrome next to the stadium. These horse races were the only events in which bondsmen or slaves were permitted to participate. A winning owner received the olive wreath, while his victorious servant was given a cotton headband.

Pancration—The Brutal Contest. It was in 648 B.C., too, that the contest called pancration (from the Greek words for “all strength”) was introduced. It was a cruel combination of wrestling and boxing, and no holds were barred. Each match went to the finish with no rest periods. Only when one contestant lay unconscious or raised his hand as a sign of defeat did the event end.

The victory of Arrachion of Phigalia gives us an idea of the character of the pancration. Arrachion, it is said, was being strangled by his opponent, a perfectly legal maneuver according to the rules. As he was losing consciousness, Arrachion in desperation twisted his foe’s leg. He inflicted such pain that the opponent lifted his hand to signal defeat. But as the judges declared Arrachion the winner, he lay dead before them, ultimate loser in the pancration.

Cultural Celebrations. Over and above these exercises of physical strength and agility, the celebrations included contests in music, poetry, and eloquence. The festivals gave musicians, poets, and authors the best possible chance to present their work to the public. The fame of those whose efforts were rewarded with the olive wreath spread far and wide.



Olympic Heroes. Winners of Olympic events were revered as heroes; their exertion and sacrifice could result in rich rewards. Their triumphs became part of the record kept in the *altis*, or sacred grove. Three-time winners had statues erected in their likeness and received various gifts and honors, including exemption from taxation.



Often a winner would return to his home and be escorted through an opening in the wall surrounding his city—an opening created by the citizens to show the world that a city with an Olympic champion need fear no enemy. Among the legendary heroes of the ancient Games were Milo of Croton, who won six wrestling competitions during the sixth century B.C., and Polydamas of Thessaly, victor in the pancration in the XCIII Olympiad (408 B.C.).

Milo supposedly developed his brute strength by carrying a calf on his shoulders every day of his life until it was a full grown bull. Polydamas is said to have killed a lion with his bare hands and stopped a chariot by grabbing the back of it with one hand.

Theagenes of Thasos possessed several skills. He competed in boxing, sprinting, and the pancration, winning the wreath no fewer than 1,400 times.

The Golden Age of the Olympics. By the fifth century B.C., Olympia was the holiest place of ancient Greece and its ceremonial Games were at their height. They lasted five days; religious rituals occupied much of the time. At the opening of the Games a pig was sacrificed to Zeus and a black ram to Pelops. When an athlete won an event he was supposed to give public thanks to the deities.

Set above the multitude by their championships, Olympic victors expected esteem. Occasionally, Olympic champions returning home did not receive the welcome they felt they deserved. Thus, when Oebotas returned to Achaia following a victory and was virtually ignored, he put a curse on his city. During the next 74 Olympiads, no citizen of Achaia won an event. The Oracle at Delphi told the people of Achaia to honor the memory of Oebotas with a statue. When they did Sostratas of Achaia won the foot race for boys in the next Olympiad.

No Women in the Olympic Games. Women were barred from the early Games, both as spectators and competitors, because the Olympics was regarded as primarily religious ceremonies. Those women who let curiosity get the better of them were put to death if they were caught.

However, in 396 B.C., a woman from Rhodes escaped that fate. Kallipateira dressed in men's clothes so she could watch her son compete in boxing in the XCVI Olympiad. When he won, Kallipateira ran to shower him with kisses, and so gave herself away. Because her father was Diagoras the boxing champion of the LXXIX Olympiad in 464 B.C., and one of the most celebrated of all ancient athletes, the penalty of death was waived.

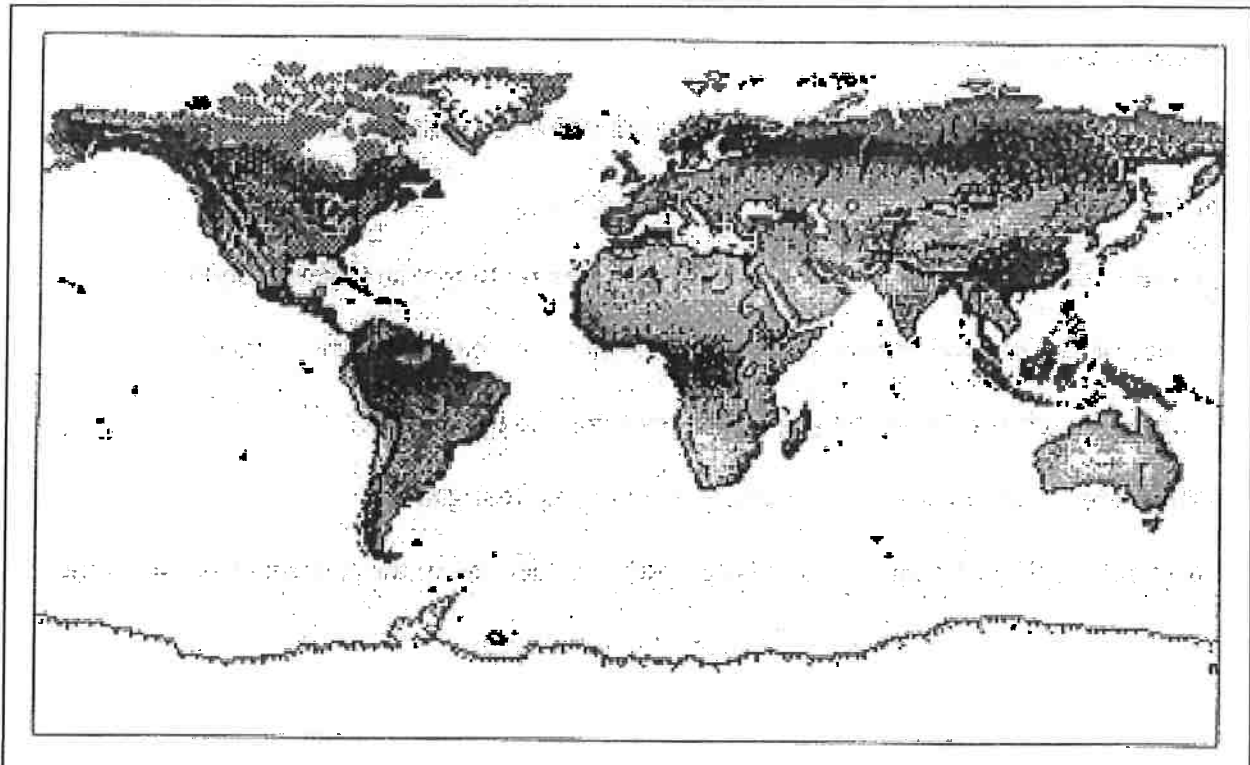
Rome Brought the Decline of the Games. The ancient Games reached their zenith in the so-called Golden Age of Greece. With the emergence of the mighty Roman Empire, the sun began to dim. Contests among amateur sportsmen gradually changed. The high ideals of the earlier years were lost sight of. Interest in striving to be perfect, just for the satisfaction of doing one's best, gave way to emphasis on the rewards. Winning became the only concern. Foreign athletes of known prowess were given Greek citizenship so they could enter the Games. Rich men who could not themselves hope to compete began to hire professionals so that they might be sure of winning the bets wagered on the contests.

The Dismal Low of Nero. Perhaps the low point was reached in 67 A.D., when Nero appeared at the CCXI Olympiad with a retinue of 5,000, whose primary function was to applaud him. No opponent dared face Nero in the chariot race. When he fell from his chariot, fawning officials put him back, but he could not finish the race. Yet the jury declared him champion. It had been ordered to do so.

As the original purpose of the Games was forgotten, Olympia itself began to decline, even though Romans, who had conquered Greece, continued the Games and added to the riches of the temple of Xhosa.

The End of the Ancient Games. The Games continued for some three centuries after Nero's sham, but the days of splendor had passed. The long list of ancient Olympic champions ends with the boxer Varazdetes or Varastad, an Armenian. In 393 A.D., Roman Emperor Theodosius I, a convert to Christianity who considered the Games pagan, ordered them to be abolished because they had become a public nuisance. The immense statue of Zeus was taken from the temple and carried away to Constantinople, where it was lost in a huge fire. A few years later, in the reign of Theodosius II, the marvelous temples of Zeus and Hera were dismantled. Successive earthquakes and floods ruined the site and gradually Olympia was completely buried. So it would remain, lost from sight and half-forgotten, through century after century, until 1875.

Taken from *Pursuit of Excellence: The Olympic Story*, by The Associated Press and Grolier, Grolier Enterprises Inc., Danbury, Connecticut, 1979, James E. Churchill, Jr., Jeff Hacker, Edward Humphrey, editors; Hal Bock, Will Grimsley, Charles Morey, Barney Nagler, Mike Pathet, Contributing Writers.



The Ancient Games Study Sheet

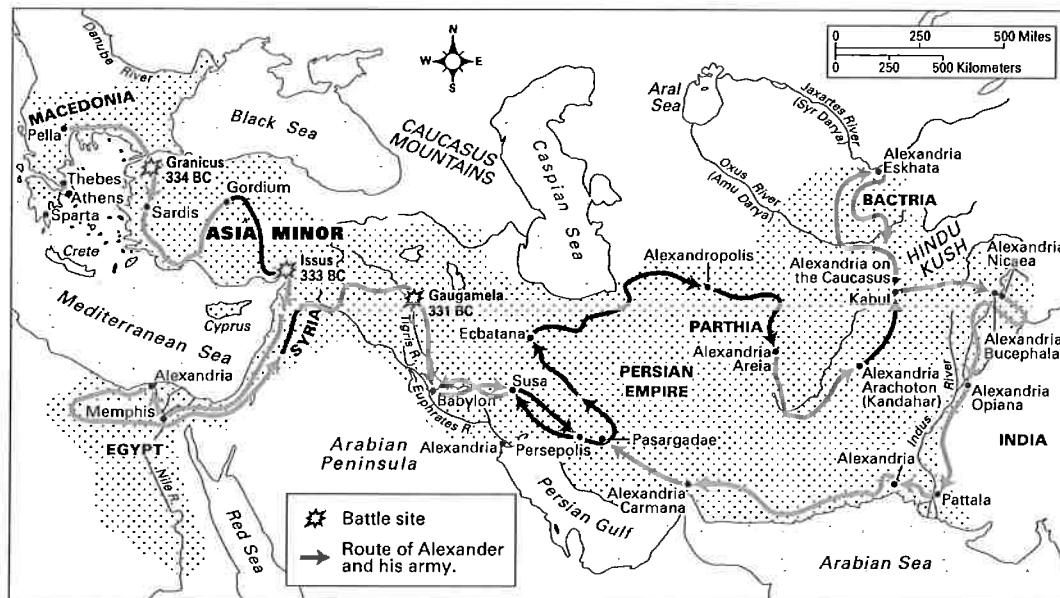
Answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper.

1. In what ways did the original Olympic Games fulfill the Greek ideal of perfection?
2. Discuss the role of religion in fostering this belief.
3. How did attitudes about the value of the body foster and encourage better physical fitness among Greek citizens?
4. What role did the city of Olympia play in the founding of the Olympic Games?
5. Describe the training ancient Olympic athletes went through to prepare for the Games.
6. What is meant by the word, *Ekecheiria*? How did the Olympics promote that sacred trust during the playing of the games?
7. Summarize in your own words one of the legends of the traditional beginnings of the Olympic Games.
8. When were the first Olympic Games recorded? Who was the first winner? In what sport was he the winner?
9. Describe the game of *Pancration*. Why is that game no longer an Olympic Sport?
10. What role did cultural celebrations play in the tradition of the Olympic Games?
11. Who were some of the first Olympic heroes of the Ancient Games?
12. Why weren't women allowed to participate in the ancient games?
13. How did the Roman conquest of Greece lead to the decline of the Ancient Olympic Games?
14. Analyze the reasons for which the Ancient Olympic Games finally ended.
15. What are the differences between competition, violence, and war?



Alexander's Empire

Alexander the Great began building his empire in 334 BC, when he defeated a large Persian army at Granicus. He continued his march through Asia Minor and conquered the Persians near the town of Issus. In 332 BC Alexander invaded Egypt, which surrendered to him without a fight. Alexander then went to Gaugamela, where he defeated the Persian army for the last time. When the king of Persia fled the country, Alexander became ruler of the Persian Empire. Alexander and his armies kept marching through Central Asia. Once they crossed the Indus River, Alexander's soldiers refused to go any farther. They were tired and wanted to go home. Disappointed, Alexander and his army began their long journey back to Greece. The map below shows the path of Alexander's conquests. Use the map to answer the questions on the following page.



MAP ACTIVITY

1. Use a bright color to highlight the route taken by Alexander and his armies.
2. Use a different color to highlight all three of the major battle sites where Alexander and his armies fought the Persians.

3. What is the name of the river that Alexander and his armies crossed after entering Central Asia? Highlight it on the map with another color.
4. Update the map legend to reflect the colors that you have added to the map.

ANALYZING MAPS

1. **Place** How many cities did Alexander name Alexandria, after himself?

2. **Location** What major battle site lies south of the Caucasus Mountains?

3. **Region** How many miles did Alexander's empire extend from east to west?

4. **Movement** Why did Alexander's soldiers refuse to go deeper into Central Asia? What effect did this have on Alexander's effort to build a great empire?
