

ENGLISH

KEY STAGE 2 2004

SPELLING

LEVELS

3–5

Spelling Test
Olympic Games

Teacher's Version

Olympic Games

Every four years thousands of athletes come together to take part in the Olympic Games. It is one of the biggest sporting events in the world.

The Games are based on competitions held in Ancient Greece. All fighting, across the Greek world, stopped during the Games. These were part of a religious festival held to honour the Greek god, Zeus. The ancient Greeks thought it was very important for people to exercise their minds, as well as their bodies.

The first recorded Games took place approximately two and a half thousand years ago. In the nineteenth century the modern Olympics were developed to encourage young athletes and to promote peace between different countries.

The opening of the Games is extremely impressive. The Greek athletes lead the procession into the stadium, as a reminder of the original Olympics. The other teams follow in alphabetical order.

The Games are officially declared open with the raising of the Olympic flag. Doves are released into the air as a symbol of peace.

A highly significant moment is the lighting of the Olympic Flame, which remains alight throughout the Games.



Several events in the Olympics today, such as running, boxing and wrestling, were also popular in the ancient Games. Some aspects of the Olympics have been transformed by changes in technology.

For example, events can now be judged with greater accuracy because of sophisticated measuring equipment.

An audience of many millions watches on television, enjoying the colourful ceremonies and many exciting competitions.

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