



# *Activity : Olympic Games*

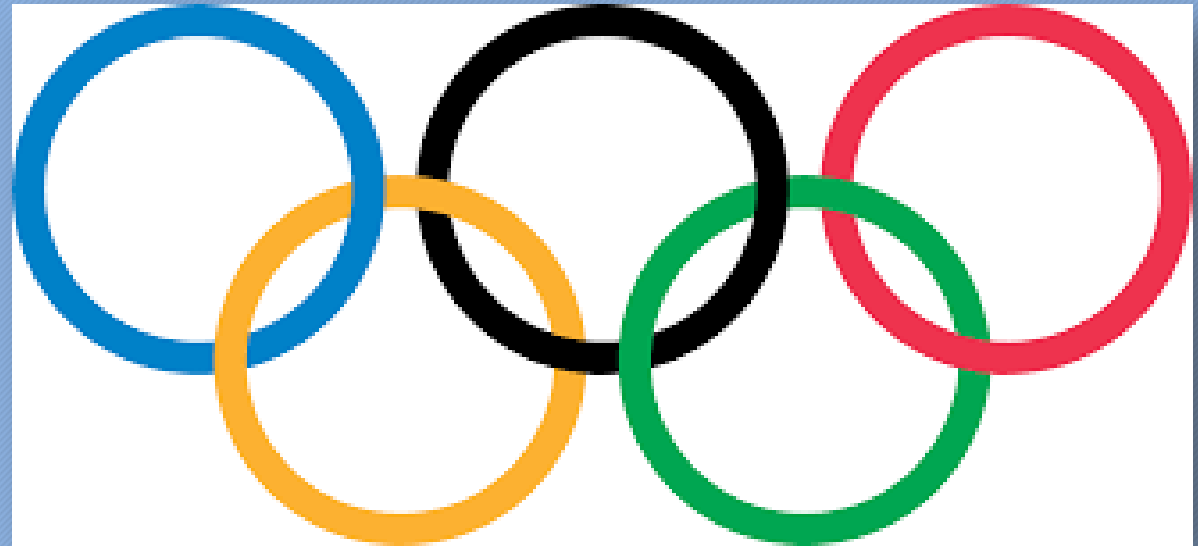
*“Passport to Europe”  
4<sup>th</sup> Transnational Meeting in Chania*

2018-2021

# *Olympic Games*

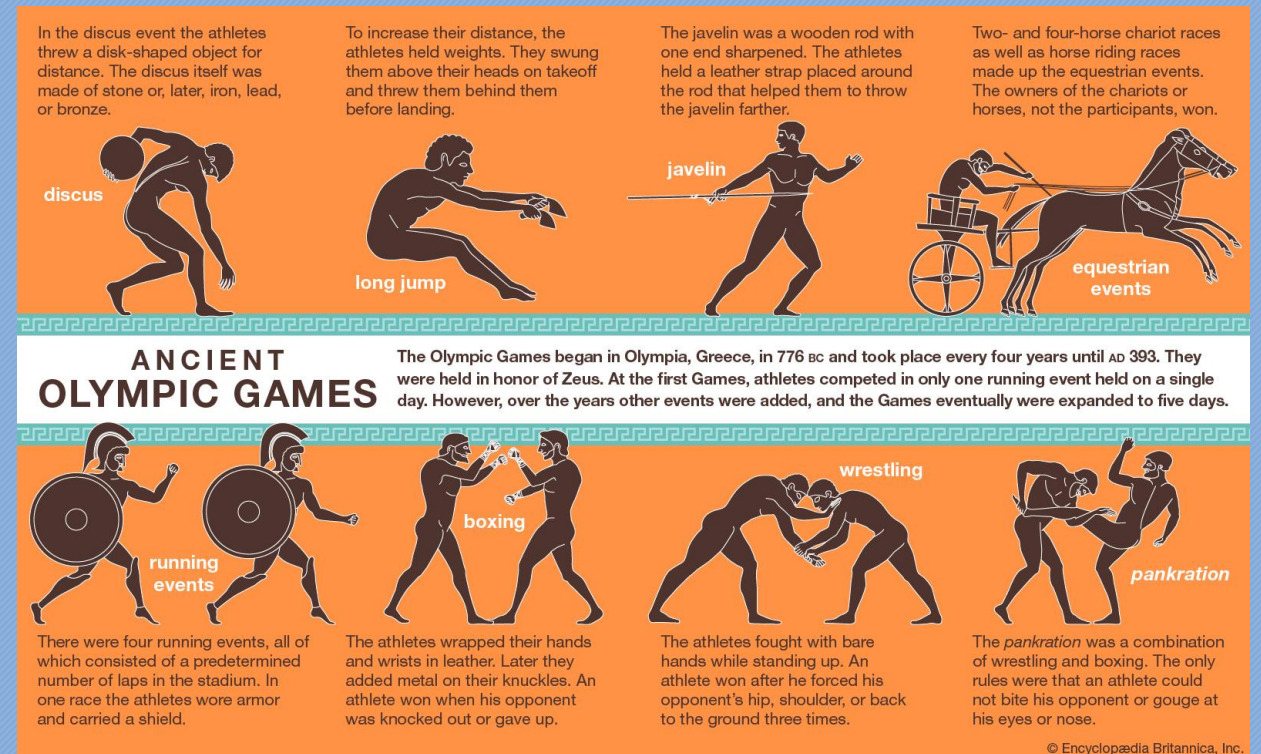
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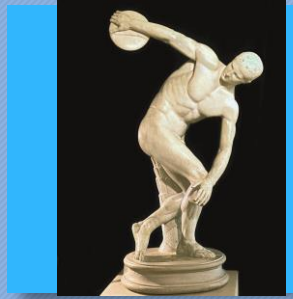


# The Ancient Olympics

- It is believed that the first Olympic Games date to 776 B.C. The ancient Olympics were held every four years between August 6 and September 19 during a religious festival honoring *Zeus*.
- After the Roman Empire conquered Greece in the mid-2nd century B.C., the Games continued, but their standards and quality declined.
- In A.D. 393, Emperor Theodosius I, a Christian, called for a ban on all “pagan” festivals, ending the ancient Olympic tradition after nearly 12 centuries.



# *The Ancient Olympics*



- The Games were named for their location at *Olympia*, a sacred site located near the western coast of the Peloponnese peninsula in southern Greece. Their influence was so great that ancient historians began to measure time by the four-year increments in between Olympic Games, which were known as Olympiads





# Ancient Olympia (the location)



- There aren't many cultural landmarks that you have a feeling for without having visited. The archaeological site of [Ancient Olympia](#) is one of them. Capturing all the spirit of the Olympic Games, it's also the place where the **Olympic flame** is lit in commemoration of the Games that originated and were held here every four years for a staggering 1,000 years.

Located in the western **Peloponnese**, Ancient Olympia was one of the most sacred and glorious sanctuaries of the ancient world. And, though only foundations of many of its structures remain, it is still one of the most evocative of Greece's archaeological sites.



# The Olympic Flame

- Also in Olympia is the altar of the Olympic flame, which is transferred every four years to the city that hosts the Olympic Games. The lighting of the flame takes place at the altar of the Temple of Hera and it is done with the convergence of *sunlight* onto a metal reflector.
- This process is part of a ritual combination that includes the prayer and the hymn to Apollo. The high priestess enters the stadium holding the lit torch which she then hands over to the first runner in order for it to start its long journey to the ends of the earth.





# *The revival of the Olympics*

1896

- Efforts for the revival of the Olympic Games in modern times reached a peak at the end of the 19th century with the instrumental contribution of the *French Baron Pierre De Coubertin* and the Greek *Dimitrios Vikelas*. The first contemporary Olympic Games took place with great glamour in **1896** in Athens, in the Panathenaic Stadium.
- In the opening ceremony, King Georgios I and a crowd of 60,000 spectators welcomed 280 participants from 13 nations (all male), who would compete in 43 events, including track and field, gymnastics, swimming, wrestling, cycling, tennis, weightlifting, shooting and fencing.



# The Olympic Hymn



- The Olympic Hymn first appeared at the first Olympic Games in 1896 in Athens, Greece. The lyrics were written in Greek by Greece's national poet, Kostis Palamas and set to music by Spyros Samaras. The hymn was not used again for several decades until the 1960 Games.
- It is played during the opening and closing ceremonies.

## *The Greek version*

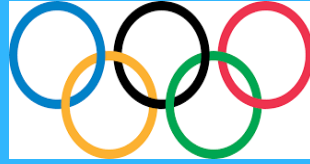
Αρχαίο Πνεύμα αθάνατο,  
αγνέ πατέρα του ωραίου,  
του μεγάλου και του  
αληθινού. Κατέβα,  
φανερώσου κι άστραψε  
εδώ πέρα στη δόξα της  
δικής σου γης και τ'  
ουρανού. Στο δρόμο και  
στο πάλεμα και στο  
λιθάρι των ευγενών  
αγώνων λάμψε την ορμή.

## *The English translation*

Immortal spirit of  
antiquity, father of the  
true, beautiful and good.  
Descend, appear, shed  
over us the light. Upon  
this ground and under  
this sky which has first  
witnessed the  
unperishable fame. Give  
life and animation to  
these noble games!



# The Olympics today



- Since 1896 every four years the Olympic games are held in a different place (except in 1916, during World War I, and in 1940 and 1944, during the World war II).
- The official symbol of the modern Games is five interlocking colored rings, representing the continents of North and South America, Asia, Africa, Europe and Australia. The Olympic flag, featuring this symbol on a white background, flew for the first time at the Antwerp Games in 1920.



# Athens 2004



- The city of Athens was candidate city for the Olympics of 1996 because of the 100 years after the first modern Olympics. But the city of Atlanta was finally selected to host the games.
- Athens was candidate city once again for the Olympics of 2004 and this time managed to organize the games.



# 2020 Olympics

- The city of Tokyo is the organizing city for the 2020 games. Due to the pandemic the games will be held this year (2021) without any foreign spectators.



TOKYO 2020





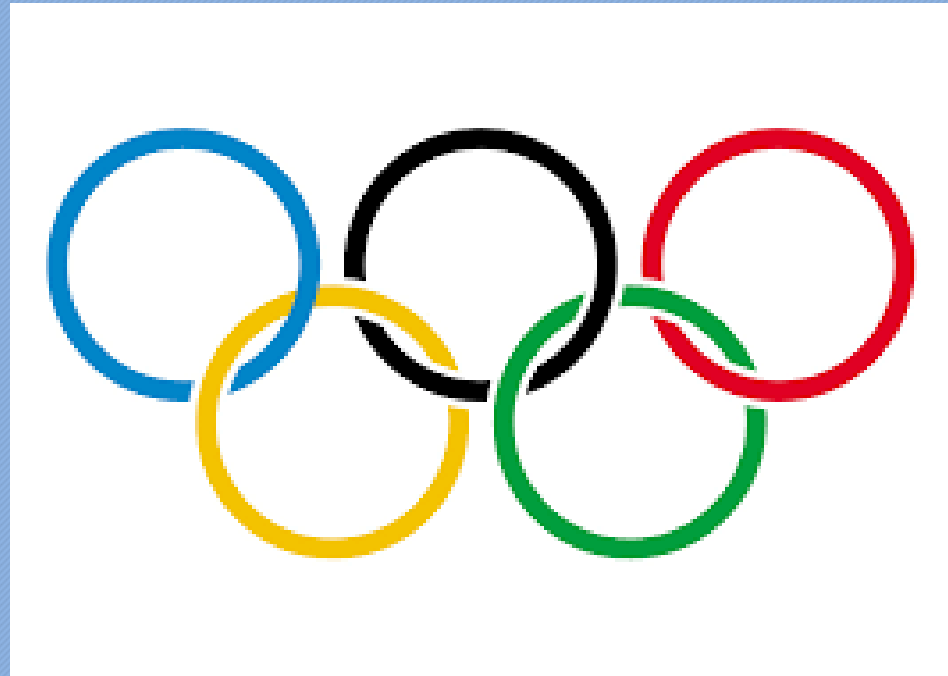
# The History and Symbols of The Olympics - video

- <https://video.link/w/FFqic>

# A journey through time - video

<https://video.link/w/xAjic>

Thank You





# Our Olympic Games

<https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/507954782/fullscreen/>