



Name _____

Olympic Opinions

Directions: Read the passage carefully, but remember that **On My Own questions do not require rereading the text** to answer. After reading, respond to each question using your **own experiences, opinions, or background knowledge**. Write your answers in complete sentences (2-4 sentences each).

The First Olympic Games

The Olympic Games began in ancient Greece over 2,700 years ago. They were held in Olympia and honored the Greek god Zeus. At first, the games included only a few events, such as foot races and wrestling. Over time, more events were added, including chariot racing and discus throwing. Only free men who spoke Greek could compete, and women were not allowed to participate or even watch. Victors were given olive wreaths instead of medals, but the honor of winning was considered priceless. Although the ancient games eventually ended, they inspired the modern Olympic Games, which began in 1896 and continue today with athletes from all over the world.

On My Own Prompts

1. If you could invent a new Olympic event, what would it be and why?
Answer: _____
2. Do you think it was fair that women were not allowed to participate in the ancient Olympics? Why or why not?
Answer: _____
3. What do you think is more important for athletes today—winning medals or representing their country? Explain.
Answer: _____
4. How do you think the Olympics help bring people together in modern times?
Answer: _____
5. Would you rather watch the ancient Olympic Games or the modern ones? Why?
Answer: _____