

The Olympic Games

ASHMOLEAN

Key Stage: 2

National Curriculum

Subject Area/s:

History, Science, potential for cross-curricular work

Length of session:

1 hour and 30 minutes

Max group size: 32 pupils plus 3 supporting adults

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Session outline

In this interactive session pupils will use evidence in the Greek galleries and the Cast gallery to discover:

- the origins of the Olympic Games.
- which sports featured in the ancient Olympics.
- the role of the gods and goddesses.
- how the Olympic Games are different today.

Activity 1: The Origins of the Olympic Games

- Pupils will search the Cast Gallery for sculptures that tell us about sports in Ancient Greece.
- They will discover where and when the games began and which deities played a role in the games.

Activity 2: Evidence from objects

- Pupils will discover why keeping fit was so important in Ancient Greece.
- They will explore the Greek gallery to find images on pots that tell us more about sport and warfare.
- They will handle original artefacts that tell us more about the ancient games.

Activity 3: Ancient vs Modern

- Pupils will return to the Cast Gallery and take part in a mime-based activity highlighting the similarities and differences between the Ancient Olympics and the modern games.

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Pre visit activities

- Look at a map of Greece. Locate Olympia and Athens.
- Research which sports featured in the Ancient Olympic Games.

Post visit activities

- Hold your own mini Olympic Games.
- Discover more about ancient Greek myths and legends especially Heracles, Zeus and Athena.
- Research Ancient Greek temples and statues. Discover how classical architecture has influenced more modern buildings.
- Learn more about Ancient Greek pots and the different styles and uses and make your own from paper mache or clay.
- Design your own coin commemorating an Olympic event.

Resources

The following resources are available to download on our website:

An image gallery of some of the objects used in the session.

<https://www.ashmolean.org/learning-resources>

