The Olympic Games

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.

Learning Outcomes

- Understanding more about the importance of sport and warfare in Ancient Greece.
- Understanding more about the roles and importance of Greek Gods.
- Knowledge and understanding of using archaeological evidence to learn about the past.
- Understanding that objects can give us information about how people lived and worked.
- Awareness of similarities and differences between the Ancient Olympics and other games and the modern games.
- Improved speaking and listening skills.

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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.

www.ashmolean.org.uk/education/resources/