



BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

The Story of the Olympics 奥林匹克故事



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Ancient Beginnings 古老的起源

To **trace the origins** of the modern Olympic Games we must travel back nearly 3,000 years in time to Ancient Greece, when young men proved their **physical prowess** and **fighting skills** by competing in sporting activities.

But the ancient Olympic Games were not solely about **sporting endeavour**; they were also used as an opportunity for the Greeks to **honour their gods**, particularly Zeus, the king of the Greek gods, whose massive statue stood in the Valley of Olympia.

Many of the sports practised by the Ancient Greeks still exist in an **adapted form** today, including wrestling, boxing, running, jumping and throwing contests.

But there are important differences. Modern day spectators would be **astonished** if the athletes competed **naked** like the Ancient Greeks did.

Combat sports could be much tougher in those days: boxers fought wearing **leather gloves** with pieces of metal attached to their **knuckles**. The Greeks also fought in an event called the 'pankration' in which **no holds were barred** and **eye-gouging** was permitted.

Although the Olympic Games **fell into decline** after Greece was **conquered** by the Roman Empire in **146BC**, the spirit of the games did not die away altogether.

Interest in the games was **revived** in the 19th Century after a wealthy Greek **philanthropist** paid for the **renovation** of an ancient stadium in Athens. The result was the 1859 Olympic Games staged between just two countries: Greece and the Ottoman Empire.

International interest grew, and in 1894 a French **aristocrat** called Pierre de Coubertin **hosted a congress** at the Sorbonne University in Paris in order to suggest a new modern Olympic Games.

De Coubertin's ideas were met with international approval and the first Olympic Games of the modern age took place in Athens in 1896.

Since then the Olympics have gone from strength to strength, with competitors from all over the world taking part, and billions more watching on television.

Glossary 词汇

trace the origins – 追踪起源	physical prowess – 体魄
fighting skills – 搏斗技能	sporting endeavour – 体育运动拼搏
honour their gods – 祭神	adapted form – 改变形式（新形式）
astonished – 惊讶的	naked – 裸体的
leather gloves – 皮手套	knuckles – 指关节
no holds were barred – 没有限制的，没有约束的	eye-gouging – 挖出眼睛
fell into decline – 开始衰败	conquered – 征服
146BC – 公元前146年	revived – 恢复（比赛）
philanthropist – 慈善家	renovation – 维修翻新
aristocrat – 贵族	hosted a congress – 主持代表大会

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真?哪句是假? 请圈出正确答案。

1. The Ancient Egyptians invented the Olympic Games 3000 years ago.
True / False
2. The original games took place in the Valley of Olympia. **True / False**
3. The Ancient Greeks wore no clothes when they competed in the games.
True / False
4. The French invasion of Greece saw an end to the ancient games.
True / False
5. The first modern Olympic Games were held in the last years of the 19th Century. **True / False**

2. Match the Sports 连线

Match the Olympic sports to the picture. The words are in the box at the bottom of the page.

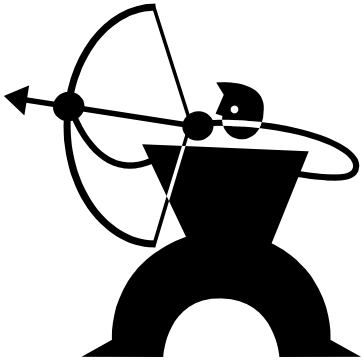
请将下列给出的奥运会比赛项目的名称填写在其相对应的图片下。



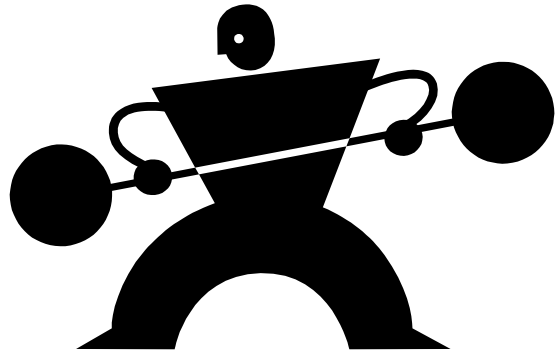
1. _____



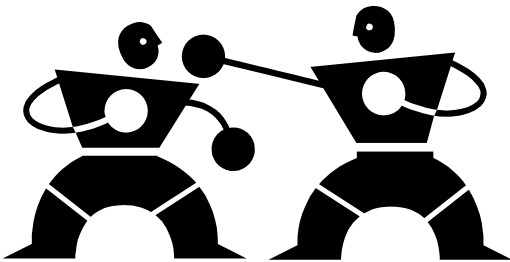
2. _____



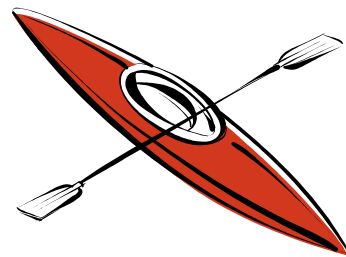
3. _____



4. _____



5. _____



6. _____

archery pole-vaulting weight-lifting boxing sailing canoeing

3. Sporting Idioms 体育运动成语

A. Match the idiom to its meaning.

请将每个成语和其正确的意思连线。

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. To throw the towel in | a. To make a silly mistake |
| 2. To move the goalposts | b. To be in a desperate position near to losing |
| 3. To drop the ball | c. To give up trying to win |
| 4. To be on the ropes | d. To change the rules to make something easier for yourself |

B. Now complete the sentences below with the correct idiom.

请从以上的成语中选择正确的来完成下列句子。

1. My boss has set me higher targets than he said he would. It's not fair the way he keeps _____.
2. I can't carry on any longer. I just want to _____ and try something new.
3. I can't believe you _____ like that. It was such a stupid mistake to make.
4. We can't win this argument. We're already _____. We have to face the fact we're going to lose.

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with Olympic sports in the puzzle below.

There are ten words to find. Words can be written horizontally (→), vertically (↓) or diagonally (↘)

请在下面的字谜游戏中，找出与奥林匹克故事有关的英语单词来。

共有10个单词，其组成方式可能以水平的(→) 垂直的(↓) 或对角的(↘)形式出现。

t	a	j	b	n	d	w	a	r	r	h	y
a	s	u	e	a	e	r	r	o	r	h	g
b	x	d	l	g	t	s	c	w	j	o	j
l	f	o	w	e	b	r	h	i	f	c	g
e	v	t	s	d	g	t	e	n	r	k	s
t	e	n	n	i	s	e	r	g	y	e	c
e	g	v	a	e	w	f	y	h	y	y	y
n	h	s	o	f	t	b	a	l	l	o	c
n	j	v	w	t	n	u	s	j	i	h	l
i	t	j	f	e	n	c	i	n	g	d	i
s	e	h	o	c	k	e	y	d	f	t	n
y	s	t	r	i	a	t	h	l	o	n	g

tennis	judo	hockey	table tennis	softball
rowing	triathlon	archery	fencing	cycling

Answers 答案

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真?哪句是假?请圈出正确答案。

- The Ancient Egyptians invented the Olympic Games 3000 years ago. **False**
- The original games took place in the Valley of Olympia. **True**
- The Ancient Greeks wore no clothes when they competed in the games. **True**
- The French invasion of Greece saw an end to the ancient games. **False**
- The first modern Olympic Games were held in the last years of the 19th Century. **True**

2. Match the Sports

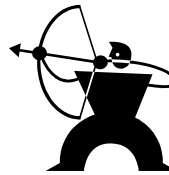
Match the Olympic sports to the picture. The words are in the box at the bottom of the page.



1. Pole-vaulting



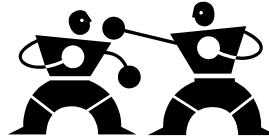
2. Sailing



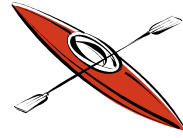
3. Archery



4. Weight-lifting



5. Boxing



6. Canoeing

3. Sporting Idioms

A. Match the idiom to its meaning.

- c
- d
- a
- b

B. Now complete the sentences below with the correct idiom.

- My boss has set me higher targets than he said he would. It's not fair the way he keeps **changing the goalposts**.
- I can't carry on any longer. I just want to **throw the towel in** and try something new.
- I can't believe you **dropped the ball** like that. It was such a stupid mistake to make.
- We can't win this argument. We're already **on the ropes**. We have to face the fact we're going to lose.

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

t		j				a	r			
a		u				r	o		h	
b		d				c	w		o	
l		o				h	i		c	
e						e	n		k	
t	e	n	n	i	s		r	g		e
e							y			y
n		s	o	f	t	b	a	l	l	c
n										l
i			f	e	n	c	i	n	g	i
s		h	o	c	k	e	y			n
		t	r	i	a	t	h	l	o	n