# AWESOME

## **Ancient Olympics**



#### 0. Ancient Olympics - Story Preface

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- 3. A TRIP TO OLYMPIA
- 4. WHO PARTICIPATED?
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- 6. ATHLETES IN ACTION
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Vaulted entrance to the ancient stadium at Olympia, Greece. Image online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

Water is best,
while gold gleams like blazing fire in the night,
brightest amid a rich man's wealth;
but, my heart, if it is of games that you wish to sing,
look no further than the sun; as there is no star
that shines with more warmth by day from a clear sky,
so we can speak of no greater contest than Olympia.

Ode by Pindar, a Greek Poet Celebrating the Olympic victory of Hieron of Syracuse Horse-race winner, 476 B.C.

Since 1896, the world's leading athletes <u>compete in the Olympics</u>. Baron <u>Pierre de Coubertin</u> (father of the <u>modern Olympics</u>), <u>believed</u> that athletic competition between amateur athletes would help improve international relations. He faced strong initial opposition to his idea that sports could temper politics.

<u>Athens</u>, the capital of Greece, <u>hosted</u> the first modern <u>games</u>. For more than a thousand years, another place in Greece - a sacred area called Olympia - hosted the ancient games.

What do we know of those ancient games? How did they start? Why were they always held in Olympia?

To learn the answers to those - and more - questions, we need to take a trip back in time to the Archaic Period of ancient Greece.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: <a href="http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Ancient-Olympics">http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Ancient-Olympics</a>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Ancient-Olympics

#### Media Stream



#### Baron Pierre de Coubertin

 $Image\ online,\ courtesy\ \underline{Olympic\text{-}legacy.com}\ website.$ 

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#### Aerial View of Athens

Image online, courtesy imagezone.com website.

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#### Minoan Civilization - The Monster and the Labyrinth

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#### Acoustic Perfection - Amphitheater at Epidaurus

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#### Colossus of Rhodes

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#### Atlantis, the Lost City

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### Parthenon at the Acropolis in Athens

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