



TEACHER WORKSHEET

CYCLE 3 / 9–10 YR • HISTORY AND ART HISTORY

STADIUM HISTORY FROM ANCIENT TIMES TO THE PRESENT DAY

OVERVIEW

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES:

- Understand that, since the dawn of time, humans have felt the need to come together to see athletic achievements.
- Understand how sports stadiums have evolved over time, from ancient Greece to the present day, based on historical, cultural, and religious contexts and new environmental issues.
- Know some of the Olympic disciplines that take place in a stadium.
- Know the Greek or Latin origin of certain words.

ANNUAL PROGRAM GUIDELINES:

Topic 1: Before France

The Celts, Gauls, Greeks, and Romans: the legacies of ancient worlds

SPECIFIC SKILLS:

- **History:**
Determine one's place in time: develop historical points of reference.
Understand a document.
Practice using different language skills in history (writing, speaking, grasping and using history vocabulary).
- **Art history:**
Relate characteristics of a work of art to usage and to the historical and cultural context in which it was created.

INTERDISCIPLINARY SKILLS:

- **Language studies:**
Find word meaning through etymology (introduction to Latin and Greek roots).
Understand polysemy in words.
- **Geography:**
Determine one's place in space.

SCHEDULE FOR SESSIONS:

- Launch project.
- Gather initial student project feedback.
- Read documents aloud as a class.
- Do activities in pairs:
 - Reading comprehension (text and image).
 - Language studies.
- Share work as a class, develop a chronological timeline, and review.
- Extend activity.

DURATION:

- 2 sessions (2 × 45 minutes).

ORGANIZATION:

- Work in pairs, then share as a class.

→ OLYMPIC GAMES KEYWORDS:

OLYMPISM • ANCIENT GREECE • GALLO-ROMAN • STADIUM • AMPHITHEATER • ARENA • VELODROME • COMPETITION • PHYSICAL EXERCISE



CONCEPTS ADDRESSED

THE FIRST OLYMPIC GAMES

Starting in 776 B.C., every four years the Greeks would organize public festivities in the city of Olympia in honor of Zeus. Athletes from all the Greek cities competed in sports events, which thousands of Greeks came to watch.



THE GREEK STADIUM

The oldest stadium that dates back to ancient Greece is the stadium in Olympia. The stadium was U-shaped. The term “stadium” (in Greek, *stadion*) originally referred to the length of a racetrack, which was approximately 192 meters. Legend has it that the measurement was equal to 600 times the length of Hercules’ foot, which was 32 centimeters. By extension, the word “stadium” eventually came to mean the venue where races are held (the track and stands). A gymnasium was a building used for training athletes.

THE ROMAN CIRCUS AND ROMAN AMPHITHEATER

Sports facilities evolved as the Romans invented new forms of leisure. The U-shaped stadium was closed off with a wall at one end, and thus the amphitheater and circus were invented.

- Amphitheaters hosted shows featuring armed men—gladiators—who risked their lives fighting one another or against wild beasts. They competed on a sandy surface (*harena* in Latin). The track had an oval shape, giving spectators better views.
- Circuses (a circular space, from the Greek *kirkos*, “ring”) hosted the oldest and most popular shows in the Roman world—chariot races. Initially celebrated as religious ceremonies, circus events became widely popular forms of entertainment taking place during *feriae* (“holidays” in Latin). Chariot racers were professionals, and the best and biggest stars sometimes won fortunes.

GALLO-ROMAN ARENAS

From the 1st century B.C. to the 5th century A.D. Gaul lost its independence and became a Roman province. The area was Romanized and also urbanized—many amphitheaters (or arenas) were built by the Gallo-Romans. Among the most famous are those in Arles and in Nîmes, France. Remains from the Arènes de Lutèce (Arena of Lutetia) can be found in Paris.

OLYMPIC STADIUMS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The Olympic Games are managed by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The IOC designates the host city, determines the list of events, and oversees developments in infrastructure.

Many Olympic cities choose to invest in a stadium worthy of the event, working with famous architects. For example, the Swiss architects Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron worked with the Chinese architect and artist Ai Weiwei to design the stadium in Beijing in 2008; the shape of the stadium’s roof was inspired by the yin and yang, which symbolize harmony in China.

Olympic stadiums continue to be more welcoming and comfortable, and must be able to accommodate very large crowds. Host cities have also understood that stadiums must be versatile to accommodate other, smaller types of events (e.g. performances and concerts).

FUN FACT!

The main running events were the *dromos* (one stadium length, about 200 m), the *dioulos* (a double-stadium race), and the *dolichos* (a long-distance race, from 7 to 24 stadiums). Eventually, the stadiums were used to host other events, such as chariot racing, javelin throwing, and discus throwing.

FUN FACT!

The Olympic Stadium in London (2012) has a modular structure that made it possible to go from 80,000 seats during the Games to a more reasonable capacity of 25,000 seats once the Games were over.



STUDENT WORKSHEET OVERVIEW

VOCABULARY:

Building, stadium, arena, circus, velodrome, athlete.

ACTIVITIES:

▶ ACTIVITY 1: LEARN ABOUT SPORTS BUILDINGS

Reading comprehension **9–10 yr** 10–11 yr 11–12 yr

Materials:– Text and image: The Panathenaic Stadium in Athens (4th century B.C.).

– Text and image: The arenas in Nîmes (1st century)

– Text and image: The Olympic Velodrome in London (2012 Olympic Games)

▶ ACTIVITY 2: STADIUM WORDS AND THEIR HISTORY

Language studies **9–10 yr** 10–11 yr 11–12 yr



STUDENT WORKSHEET ANSWER KEY

▶ ACTIVITY 1: LEARN ABOUT SPORTS BUILDINGS

Reading comprehension (text and image)

9–10 yr 10–11 yr 11–12 yr

Exercise 2

	Document 1	Document 2	Document 3
Building type	Stadium	Arena	Velodrome
Location	Athens, Greece	Nîmes, France	London, England
Building shape	Open, uncovered U-shape	Closed, symmetrical oval	Closed, covered oval with bank
Construction	4th century B.C.	1st century	2012
Materials used	Stone (marble stands)	Stone (marble stands)	Renewable (wood)
Track features	Clay	Sand	Banked, made of wood
Track dimensions	Approx. 200 m long	133 m long and 101 m wide	250 m long
Capacity	40,000 people	24,000 people	6,000 people
Sports	Races: the <i>dromos</i>	Gladiator combat	Track cycling events: speed, 1 km time trial, team pursuit, individual pursuit
Gathering type	Religious and sports	Leisure	Non-religious and sports
Building name origin	<i>Stadion</i> : Greek unit of length	<i>Arena</i> : From the Latin word for “sand”	<i>Dromos</i> : “race course” in Greek



Exercise 3

- 1) All three buildings have an “elliptic” (i.e. circular or oval) shape. They can accommodate spectators in the stands who are there to watch athletic competitions and have an exciting experience.
- 2) The shape and materials have changed to take into account technological progress and sustainable development.
Spectator comfort is also important.

Exercise 4

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4th century B.C.
The Panathenaic
Stadium in Athens

1st century
The arena in Nîmes

2012
The Olympic velodrome
in London

▶ ACTIVITY 2: STADIUM WORDS AND THEIR HISTORY

Language studies 9–10 yr 10–11 yr 11–12 yr

- 1) Hippodrome: Area reserved for horse races (*hippos* means “horse” in Greek).
Airdrome (or aerodrome): Area equipped for aircraft takeoff and landing (*aeros* means “air” in ancient Greek).
Syndrome: A number of symptoms that occur together (*syndromos* means “run together” in Greek).
- 2) *Penta* means “five” in Greek.
Pentagon, a five-sided polygon.
- 3) Circular, circulation, circuit, circumference.
- 4) Panhellenic, all people of Greek origin or ancestry; pandemic, a disease spread throughout a whole country or the world.
- 5) Arena: A place or scene of activity, debate, or conflict (e.g. the political arena).
Put a spoke in (one’s) wheel: Disrupt or cause problems to a plan, activity, or project.
At full pelt: Go very fast.



FIND OUT MORE

CNOSF EDUCATIONAL FILES

- Cycle 3: “Vocabulary for sports and athletic achievement”
- Cycle 3: “Olympic Games posters”
- Cycle 3: “Sports stars and heroes”
- 11–12 yr: “The first Olympic Games”
- Cycle 3: “Tokyo, host city of the 2020 Summer Olympic Games”

DIGITAL RESOURCES

Find out more about the Olympic Games in ancient Greece:
<https://stillmed.olympic.org/media/Document%20Library/Museum/Visit/TOM-Schools/Teaching-Resources/The-Olympic-Journey/The-Olympic-Journey-EN.pdf>

<https://www.olympic.org/ancient-olympic-games>

http://www.larousse.fr/encyclopedie/divers/Jeux_Olympiques_de_la_Gr%C3%A8ce_antique/185462

<http://www.cndp.fr/archive-musagora/jeux/default.htm>

Learn more about how Olympic stadiums have changed, from ancient times to the present day:
<https://www.olympic.org/museum/visit/schools/teaching-resources/support-de-cours/a-stadium-in-the-city>

Learn more about Roman amphitheaters:
<http://www.larousse.fr/encyclopedie/divers/amphith%C3%A9%C3%A2tre/20703>



Find out more about the Arènes de Lutèce:
http://www.larousse.fr/encyclopedie/divers/Arènes_de_Lutèce/178347

Race re-enactments:

- Europe's largest, annual, ancient history re-enactment: the Great Roman Games in Nîmes, France
<https://www.arenas-nimes.com/en/great-roman-games-0>
- Chariot racing and gladiator re-enactments at Puy du Fou in France

FILMS FOR TEACHERS

Gladiator, directed by Ridley Scott (United States, 2000)

Colosseum: A Gladiator's Story, a BBC docudrama, (United Kingdom, 2003)

EXHIBITIONS FOR STUDENTS

The Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland
<https://www.olympic.org/museum>
(virtual tour available online)

“Fair Play”: A touring exhibition on Olympism, available on loan (12 panels, 1.60 m × 50 cm):
Contact: academieolympique@cnosf.org

FURTHER READING FOR STUDENTS

Introduction to ancient times in Cycle 3:
<http://www.lesclefsdelecole.com/Clefs-des-champs/Listes-de-lecture/Decouvrir-l-antiquite-au-cycle-3>

Mythological heroes in Cycle 3:
<http://www.lesclefsdelecole.com/Clefs-des-champs/Listes-de-lecture/Lectures-conseillees-pour-preparer-le-programme-de-6eme>

Sports and Olympism:
<http://www.lesclefsdelecole.com/Clefs-des-champs/Listes-de-lecture/Sport-et-olympisme>

FILMS FOR STUDENTS

Ben-Hur, directed by William Wyler (United States, 1989)

Asterix at the Olympic Games, by Frédéric Forestier and Thomas Langmann (France, 2008)

Star Wars: Episode 1 – The Phantom Menace, directed by George Lucas (United States, 1999)

ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS

End of unit: “It’s your turn! Stadium history from ancient times to the present day” (and answer key)





STUDENT WORKSHEET

CYCLE 3 / 9-10 YR • HISTORY AND ART HISTORY

STADIUM HISTORY FROM ANCIENT TIMES TO THE PRESENT DAY

Aa

VOCABULARY

BUILDING: A structure with walls.

STADIUM: A unit of measurement in ancient Greece (1 stadium = about 192 m). The term was later used to refer to a place equipped for sports, usually surrounded by stands and rows of seats.

ARENA: A Roman amphitheater where gladiators fought.

CIRCUS: A circular space which, in Roman times, primarily hosted chariot and horse races (synonym: hippodrome).

VELODROME: A covered or open-air track used for cycling competitions.

ATHLETE: A person who does a physical activity.



ACTIVITIES

▶ ACTIVITY 1: LEARN ABOUT SPORTS BUILDINGS

MATERIALS:

- Text and image: The Panathenaic Stadium in Athens (4th century B.C.).
- Text and image: The arena in Nîmes (1st century A.D.).
- Text and image: The Olympic velodrome in London (Olympic Games 2012).

Exercise 1

Read and look at the documents below.

Document 1: The Panathenaic Stadium in Athens (4th century B.C.).



© DR



TIPS & TRICKS



Learning means making mistakes! How can you not make mistakes when **learning**? It's impossible! **A mistake isn't always serious.** It might just mean that you didn't know or understand something. And making that mistake **is a useful experience** because you won't do it again!

Everybody makes mistakes, even your parents! Ask them to tell you about the mistakes they've made in the past. You'll see—it can be very informative.

THE FIRST OLYMPIC GAMES

Starting in 776 B.C., every four years the Greeks would organize public festivities in the city of Olympia in honor of Zeus.

Athletes from all the Greek cities competed in sports events, which thousands of Greeks came to watch.

There were many sports facilities in Olympia—a stadium (rectangular clay track about 192 m long, surrounded by stands), a palaestra (for wrestling), a hippodrome (for chariot racing), and a gymnasium (for training).

Today, the stadium in Olympia is in ruins. The Panathenaic Stadium in Athens was restored to host the 1896 Olympic Games. It resembles the stadium in Olympia and gives an idea what traditional Greek stadiums—which had an open U-shaped track—would have looked like.

The most popular event was the *dromos*, a stadium-length race.

Originally, the term “stadium” (or *stadion* in Greek) referred to a unit of measurement. Later, the Greeks used the term “stadium” not only as unit of measurement, but also to refer to the place where the race was held.

Other events were also held in a stadium, such as discus- and javelin-throwing.

Some 40,000 spectators could take their places on the marble stands to cheer on the athletes.

Document 2: The arena in Nîmes (Roman province of Narbonne, in the south of France).



The Olympic Games were not held in the arena in Nîmes. It was built for gladiator combat, which was not an Olympic event.

After Julius Caesar conquered Gaul, the province was Romanized. The wealthiest Gauls adopted the Roman way of life, and many structures were built on the Roman model. Like the Colosseum in Rome, the amphitheater in Nîmes was built to offer Gallo-Romans a new form of leisure—shows featuring armed men (gladiators) who risked their lives fighting. The city’s magistrates had a duty to offer such entertainment to the people.

The amphitheater in Nîmes is a perfectly symmetrical oval-shaped building (133 m long and 101 m wide). In Roman times (1st century), it could accommodate up to 24,000 spectators seated on stone stands 21 m high.

The track’s circular shape provided spectators excellent views to see gladiators who had come to compete for them, on a ground covered with sand. In Latin, “sand” is translated by the word *harena*. That may be one reason why the words “arena” and “amphitheater” are synonyms.

Document 3: The Olympic velodrome in London.



© Peter O'Connor

Completed in 2011 to host track cycling events for the 2012 Olympic Games, London's VeloPark was built using only renewable materials—like the wood used for the exterior and track (the curved façades are made of red cedar, the floorboards of Siberian pine).

The cable-net roof lets in daylight, which saves energy. A 100% natural ventilation system means there's no need for air conditioning, and rainwater collected on the roof is recycled.

The roof's circular shape mimics the 250-meter track, with steep banks rising up to 4 meters above the ground!

During the Olympic Games, 6,000 spectators were able to watch various race events ("drome" comes from the Greek word for "race", *dromos*), including speed, 1-kilometer time trial, team pursuit, and individual pursuit.



Exercise 2

Fill in the table based on the texts and photos above:

	Document 1	Document 2	Document 3
Building type			
Location			
Building shape			
Construction			
Materials used			
Track features			
Track dimensions			
Capacity			
Sports			
Gathering type			
Building name origin			

Exercise 3

Answer the following questions:

1) What do these three buildings have in common?

.....

2) What major design changes do you see (architecture, materials, shape, etc.)?

.....

Exercise 4

Put the three buildings in order on this timeline:

0





FIND OUT MORE:

Can you think of any chariot races made famous on the big screen?

▶ ACTIVITY 2: STADIUM WORDS AND THEIR HISTORY

FUN FACT! There are many words in English that come from Latin or Greek. Look for the etymology of a word to find the language it comes from and the root word. If you know the etymology of a word, it can help you to understand what the word means.

Answer the following questions:

1) The term “velodrome” is made up of two root words:

- *dromos*, which means “race” in Greek
- *velox*, which means “rapid” or “quick” in Latin

Find another word with the suffix “drome” and explain what it means:

.....
.....

2) The ancient pentathlon involved five events: javelin throwing, discus throwing, long jump, wrestling, and running.

What do you think the prefix “penta” means?

.....
.....

Find another word with the prefix “penta” and explain what it means:

.....
.....

3) In ancient times, circuses hosted the oldest and most popular shows in the Roman world— chariot racing. The word “circus” comes from the Greek *kirkos*, or “ring”. What other words start with “circ”?

.....
.....

4) In ancient Greece, a gymnasium was a building used to train athletes (from the Greek *gymnos*, which means “naked” in Greek, because athletes would train in the nude). A palaestra (from the Greek *palè*, which means “wrestling”) was the venue used for wrestling, boxing, and pankration (which combined both wrestling and boxing). The word “pankration” includes the prefix “pan” (“all”). Find another word with that prefix and explain what it means.

.....
.....

5) Some words have a literal sense (the usual or standard meaning) and a figurative sense (a symbolic meaning). Use a dictionary to find the figurative meaning of the following words and expressions related to the ancient Games:

– Arena:

– Put a spoke in (one’s) wheel:

– At full pelt:



REVIEW

- There are many ruins that show that **Gaul was also Romanized through building architecture**, like the arena in Nîmes.
- Since the dawn of time, humans have felt **the need to come together in places where they could watch athletic competitions, cheer on athletes, and have an exciting experience.**
- Some sports gatherings were held to celebrate the gods (like in ancient Greece) or to entertain people (like in ancient Rome). Nowadays, the Olympic Games offer major international sports events that **promote physical activity and brotherhood between peoples. Olympic values (excellence, friendship, respect) are universal—they stand the test of time, no matter the country.** That's why the Olympic Games are still so exciting, almost 3,000 years after they were created.
- There has always been a focus on **improving sports facilities** for competitors and spectators alike. Nowadays, **environmental issues** are as important as **technological challenges.**



NOW, TAKE ACTION!

- **Respect the work of others.** During gatherings (shows, fairs, concerts, sports events, etc.), understand that the people on stage **have worked hard on their performance. They dared to share their talent**, emotions, and dreams, and do it in a public place—in the street, in a hall, or in a stadium... So we should respect their work.
- **Accept defeat if your team or the team you're rooting for loses.** Stadiums, gymnasiums, and other venues were built to host sports events. Above all, they're places for **celebration, interaction, self-respect, and respect for others.** Defeat does not mean failure!



INFOGRAPHIC WORKSHEET

CYCLE 3 / 9-10 YR • HISTORY AND ART HISTORY

STADIUM HISTORY FROM ANCIENT TIMES TO THE PRESENT DAY

The sanctuary of Olympia

The sanctuary of Olympia was built gradually over the centuries and was one of the key religious sites in ancient Greece. It was dedicated to Zeus, the king of the gods. From 776 B.C. to 393 A.D., the site hosted a major athletic competition every 4 years—the Olympic Games.

The Temple of Zeus

Built in the 5th century B.C., the Temple of Zeus was one of the most beautiful temples in all of Greece. The temple's pediments were decorated with marble sculptures. Inside was a huge, 14-meter-high statue of Zeus made of gold and ivory. It was made by the great Greek sculptor Phidias.

The Temple of Hera

The temple was dedicated to the goddess Hera, the wife of Zeus. It dates back even further than the Temple of Zeus.

The Olympic Games

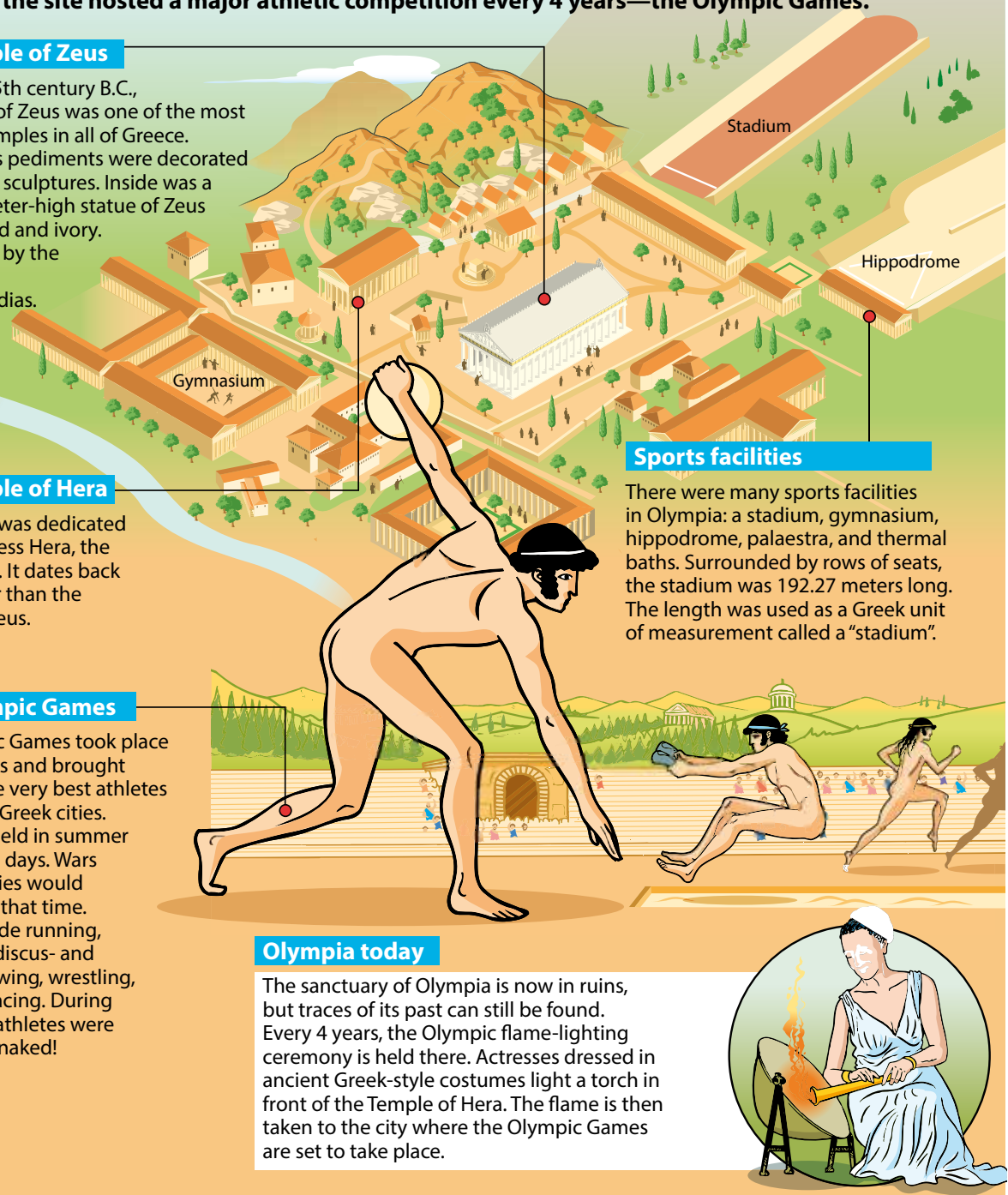
The Olympic Games took place every 4 years and brought together the very best athletes from all the Greek cities. They were held in summer and lasted 5 days. Wars between cities would stop during that time. Sports include running, long jump, discus- and javelin-throwing, wrestling, and horse racing. During the events, athletes were completely naked!

Olympia today

The sanctuary of Olympia is now in ruins, but traces of its past can still be found. Every 4 years, the Olympic flame-lighting ceremony is held there. Actresses dressed in ancient Greek-style costumes light a torch in front of the Temple of Hera. The flame is then taken to the city where the Olympic Games are set to take place.

Sports facilities

There were many sports facilities in Olympia: a stadium, gymnasium, hippodrome, palaestra, and thermal baths. Surrounded by rows of seats, the stadium was 192.27 meters long. The length was used as a Greek unit of measurement called a "stadium".





IT'S YOUR TURN!

CYCLE 3 / 9–10 YR • HISTORY AND ART HISTORY



STADIUM HISTORY FROM ANCIENT TIMES TO THE PRESENT DAY

PUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO THE TEST

1 CONNECT EACH ERA WITH A TYPE OF STADIUM:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Ancient Greece • | • Open, oval-shaped circus |
| Rome • | • Covered stadium |
| Contemporary times • | • U-shaped track |

2 CONNECT EACH SPORTS FACILITY WITH THE USE:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| Gymnasium • | • Training |
| Palaestra • | • Running |
| Stadium • | • Fighting and combat |

3 SELECT THE SPORTS FACILITIES THAT DATE BACK TO ANCIENT TIMES:

- Hippodrome Climbing wall Circus Airdrome
 Cricket field Velodrome Ice rink

4 CONNECT EACH WORD TO ITS ETYMOLOGY:

- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| Stadium • | • <i>Harena</i> |
| Arena • | • <i>Stadion</i> |
| Velodrome • | • <i>Dromos</i> |

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE FURTHER

1 MENS SANA IN CORPORE SANO:

In ancient Greece, a gymnasium was a building used for training athletes—physical training and intellectual training, because for the Greeks cultivating one's body was as important as cultivating one's mind.

The philosopher Aristotle taught in one of Athens' three gymnasiums, called:

- The Museum The Mausoleum The Lyceum

2 ON THE RIGHT FOOT!

The term "stadium" (or *stadion*) originally referred to the length of a racetrack, which was approximately 192 meters. Legend has it that the measurement was equal to 600 times the length of a Greek demigod's foot. Which demigod was it?

- Heracles (Hercules) Theseus Perseus



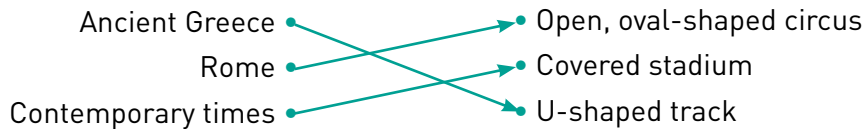
IT'S YOUR TURN! ANSWER KEY

CYCLE 3 / 9–10 YR • HISTORY AND ART HISTORY

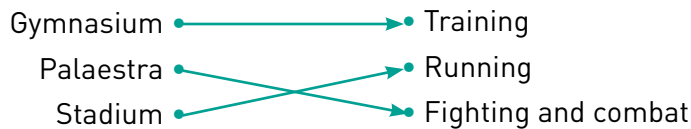
STADIUM HISTORY FROM ANCIENT TIMES TO THE PRESENT DAY

PUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO THE TEST

1 CONNECT EACH ERA WITH A TYPE OF STADIUM:



2 CONNECT EACH SPORTS FACILITY WITH THE USE:



3 SELECT THE SPORTS FACILITIES THAT DATE BACK TO ANCIENT TIMES:

- Hippodrome Climbing wall Circus Airdrome
 Cricket field Velodrome Ice rink

4 CONNECT EACH WORD TO ITS ETYMOLOGY:



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3 WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING STRUCTURES ARE GALLO-ROMAN REMAINS?

- The Pont du Gard bridge
- The Arc de Triomphe arch in Paris
- The Viaduc de Milleau bridge
- The Arc de Triomphe arch in Orange
- The Opéra Bastille opera house
- The Théâtre Antique arena in Orange

4 DURING GLADIATOR COMBAT, SPECTATORS COULD SHOW MERCY TO THE DEFEATED BY:

- Raising a finger in the air
- Singing
- Waving a handkerchief

KICK OFF THE DISCUSSION... GIVE YOUR OPINION

PROMPT:

The Olympic Games strive to educate young people about physical activity in order to build a more peaceful world. The Games have an international dimension.