



# TEACHER WORKSHEET

CYCLE 3 • LANGUAGE STUDIES: VOCABULARY

## VOCABULARY FOR SPORTS AND ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT

### OVERVIEW

#### EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES:

- Learn about the legacy and influence of the ancient Games on the modern Olympic Games.
- Enrich one's vocabulary and learn about the history of sports terms.
- Understand the figurative meaning of expressions rooted in mythology.

#### SPECIFIC SKILLS:

- **Understand how the language works:**
  - Acquire the structure, meaning, and spelling of words.
  - Use reasoning to analyze the meaning of words in context and based on morphology.

#### INTERDISCIPLINARY SKILLS:

- **English:**
  - Reading: Understand texts, documents, and images, and interpret them.
  - Speaking: Understand verbal communication and develop speaking skills.
- **Knowledge in literature and the arts:** Discover works, texts, and documents featuring heroes and heroines.

- **History:** Determine one's place in time.
- **Geography:** Determine one's place in space.

#### SCHEDULE FOR SESSIONS:

- Launch project.
- Gather initial student project feedback.
- Read text aloud as a class.
- Do activities in pairs.
- Share with class and review.
- Extend activity.

#### DURATION:

- 2 sessions (2 × 45 minutes).

#### ORGANIZATION:

- Work in pairs, then share as a class.

#### → OLYMPIC GAMES KEYWORDS:

**ANCIENT GREECE • OLYMPISM • IOC • CHAMPION • ACHIEVEMENT • MOTTO • OATH**



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## CONCEPTS ADDRESSED

### THE ANCIENT 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 would watch. There were also Games in the cities of Delphi and Nemea, and on the Isthmus of Corinth. The cities would take turns hosting the Games, which explains the current four-year cycle.

### THE MODERN GAMES

On June 23, 1894, upon Pierre de Coubertin's urging, the IOC decided to update the Olympic Games. The first modern Olympic Games were held in 1896 in Athens, inspired by the ancient Games.

Over time, the IOC adopted the following:

- An Olympic symbol composed of five interlocking rings, all the same size (the Olympic Rings). This Olympic symbol represents "the union of the five continents and the meeting of athletes from throughout the world at the Olympic Games." But it would be incorrect to think that each color represents a continent. The colors were in fact chosen so that at least one of those colors could be found in the flag of every nation.
- An Olympic flag with a white background and no border. The five-colored Olympic symbol is featured in the middle.
- An Olympic motto in Latin: *Citius, Altius, Fortius* ("faster, higher, stronger"). It expresses the aspirations of the Olympic movement.
- An Olympic hymn (also called an anthem) was composed by Spyridon Samaras, with lyrics by Kostis Palamas, for the 1896 Olympic Games. It has been consistently used as the official anthem ever since the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome. Listen to it [here](#).
- An Olympic flame lit in Olympia under the IOC's authority and passed on in a relay to the host city's stadium.

### FUN FACT!

At the opening of the Olympic Games, the Olympic oath is taken by an athlete from the host country on behalf of all athletes: *"In the name of all the athletes, we promise to take part in these Olympic Games, respecting and abiding by the rules and in the spirit of fair play. We all commit ourselves to sport without doping and cheating. We do this, for the glory of sport, for the honor of our teams."*



## STUDENT WORKSHEET OVERVIEW

### VOCABULARY:

International Olympic Committee, IOC, symbol, motto, champion, oath.

### ACTIVITIES:

#### ▶ ACTIVITY 1: THE MODERN OLYMPIC GAMES, PASSED DOWN FROM THE ANCIENT GAMES

Become more aware of the ancient legacy of the modern Olympic Games. 9–10 yr | 10–11 yr | 11–12 yr

Materials: Texts

#### ▶ ACTIVITY 2: THE LEXICAL LEGACY OF MYTHOLOGY AND THE GAMES IN ANCIENT TIMES

Understand the Greek or Latin origin of sports vocabulary. 9–10 yr | 10–11 yr | 11–12 yr

Materials: Texts

Resources: English language dictionary

#### ▶ ACTIVITY 3: SPORTS LANGUAGE BEYOND SPORTS

Discover the figurative meaning of certain sports expressions. 9–10 yr | 10–11 yr | 11–12 yr

Materials: Texts

Resources: English language dictionary



## STUDENT WORKSHEET ANSWER KEY

### ▶ ACTIVITY 1: THE MODERN OLYMPIC GAMES, PASSED DOWN FROM THE ANCIENT GAMES

	In Olympia	Today
<b>Host country</b>	Greece	Changes
<b>Origin and meaning</b>	Religious	Universalism; a celebration of sports, brotherhood among peoples
<b>Frequency</b>	Every four years	Every four years
<b>Nationality and sex</b>	Greek (including Greek colonies); male athletes only	Worldwide; male and female athletes
<b>Number of winners per event</b>	One	Three
<b>Award</b>	Olive wreath	Three medals: Gold, silver, or bronze
<b>Penalty for cheating</b>	Corporal punishment and fines, used to pay for statues of Zeus	Disqualification
<b>Flame lighting and oath</b>	Yes	Yes



## ▶ ACTIVITY 2: THE LEXICAL LEGACY OF MYTHOLOGY AND THE GAMES IN ANCIENT TIMES

### Exercise 1

Expression	Meaning
<b>Ex aequo</b>	Of equal rank, tied.
<b>Pentathlon</b>	An event including five different athletic events.
<b>Gymnasium</b>	A building used for training and physical exercise.
<b>Stadium</b>	A space equipped for sports and surrounded by stands and rows of seats.
<b>Athlete</b>	A person who plays a sport or does a physical activity.
<b>Podium</b>	A three-level platform where competition winners stand, especially at the Olympic Games.
<b>Hippodrome</b>	A track or course used for horse racing in ancient Greece or Rome.

### Exercise 2

Greek root	Greek root meaning	English term
<b>Cyclo-</b>	Circle	Bicycle
<b>Hippo-</b>	Horse	Horse racetrack
<b>Deca-</b>	Ten	Decathlon (combination of ten sports)
<b>-machy</b>	Battle, fight	Tauromachy (bull fighting)
<b>Nau-</b>	Boat	Nautical
<b>-drome</b>	Course, track	Velodrome

### Exercise 3

Expression	Origin	Meaning
<b>A Herculean task</b>	The twelve labors of Hercules.	A task that requires a lot of effort.
<b>An Achilles heel</b>	Achilles' mother dipped him in a liquid that made his body invincible, except for the heel by which she held him.	A person's weak spot.
<b>A laureate</b>	A laurel wreath or crown, used as a mark of distinction.	A person who has won an award in a competition or for intellectual achievement.
<b>A Trojan horse</b>	A large wooden horse in which the Greeks hid in order to enter the city of Troy during the Trojan war in Greek mythology.	A person or thing intended to ambush an enemy or opponent from within.



► **ACTIVITY 3: SPORTS LANGUAGE BEYOND SPORTS**

Expression	Literal meaning	Figurative meaning
<b>Pass the torch</b>	Pass the Olympic torch during the relay.	Give one's duties or responsibilities to another person.
<b>Go for gold</b>	Attempt to win an Olympic gold medal.	Attempt to achieve the best possible outcome.
<b>Be in the home stretch (or home straight)</b>	Be in the final stretch of a race, which is a straight line.	Be close to the end of a task or something to be accomplished.
<b>Have the inside track</b>	Be on the inner side of a racetrack, which is also the shortest line of the course. A horse has a better chance of winning by following the shortest trajectory.	Be in a position of advantage over others (i.e. in the best position).
<b>Be a frontrunner</b>	Be in a leading position in a race or other competition.	Be the favored contestant in a competition or campaign.
<b>Throw in the towel</b>	In boxing, the trainer throws a towel in the ring to signal the fighter's defeat.	Give up.
<b>Freewheel</b>	Ride a bicycle without pedaling, especially downhill.	Do something without making much effort.



## FIND OUT MORE

### CNOSF EDUCATIONAL FILES

9–10 yr: “Stadium history from ancient times to the present day”

11–12 yr: “The first Olympic Games”

Cycle 3: “Sports stars and heroes”

Cycle 3: “The Olympic Games in French”

### DIGITAL RESOURCES

Find out more about the symbols of the modern Olympic Games:

<http://cnosf.franceolympique.com/cnosf/actus/4928-les-symboles-et-marques-olympiques.html>

Listen to the official oath taken by skier Léo Lacroix at the opening of the Olympic Games in Grenoble (at 3 min. 28 sec.):

<http://www.ina.fr/audio/PHF04007008/inter-actualites-de-20h00-du-6-fevrier-1968-audio.html>

Get the lyrics to the Olympic hymn:

<http://cnosf.franceolympique.com/cnosf/actus/4930-lhymne-olympique.html>

Learn more about the Olympic charter:

<https://stillmed.olympic.org/media/Document%20Library/OlympicOrg/General/EN-Olympic-Charter.pdf>

Learn more about the Olympic Games in ancient Greece:

[http://www.larousse.fr/encyclopedie/divers/Jeux\\_Olympiques\\_de\\_la\\_Gr%C3%A8ce\\_antique/185462](http://www.larousse.fr/encyclopedie/divers/Jeux_Olympiques_de_la_Gr%C3%A8ce_antique/185462)



Éduscol support document:

<http://eduscol.education.fr/cid106031/ressources-francais-etude-langue.html#lien5>

### 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](mailto:academieolympique@cnosf.org)

### FURTHER READING FOR STUDENTS

<http://www.lescleftsdelecole.com/Clefts-des-champs/Listes-de-lecture/Sport-et-olympisme>

Arkéo Junior no. 177 from September 2010

“*Les Jeux sportifs chez les Grecs et les Romains*” (“Sports Games among the Greeks and the Romans”)

*Les Voyages d’Alix. Les Jeux Olympiques*, by Yves Plateau, Cédric Hervan, Jacques Martin, and Alain Hammerstein, Éditions Casterman (2008)

### ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS

– End of unit: “It’s your turn!

The first Olympic Games” (and answer key)

– Incollables® trivia cards:

<http://cnosf.franceolympique.com/cnosf/actus/6106-dcouvrir-lolympisme-avec-les-incollables.html>





# STUDENT WORKSHEET

CYCLE 3 • LANGUAGE STUDIES: VOCABULARY

## VOCABULARY FOR SPORTS AND ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT

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### VOCABULARY



**INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (IOC):** A group that promotes Olympism around the world and leads the Olympic Movement. The IOC chooses the host city for the Summer and Winter Olympic Games.

**SYMBOL:** A sign or image that represents an idea.

**MOTTO:** A phrase that summarizes values.

**CHAMPION:** The winner of a sports event.

**OATH:** A pledge or promise to respect values (*to take an oath*).

### ACTIVITIES

#### ▶ ACTIVITY 1: THE MODERN OLYMPIC GAMES, PASSED DOWN FROM THE ANCIENT GAMES

##### Exercise 1

##### Read the texts below:

Starting in 776 B.C., every four years the Greeks would organize public festivities in the sacred place of Olympia in honor of Zeus. Greek cities would cease fighting to send their very best athletes to compete in sports competitions. Thousands of spectators would flock to see the competitions; only Greek citizens could take part, after taking an oath to abide by the rules and judges' decisions. There were severe penalties for cheating—corporal punishment or a fine.

Before the first competition began, the Greeks would light a fire in front of the main temples of their gods.

The winner of each competition would receive a sacred olive wreath. There were no rankings or records, but the winner's name would become famous throughout Greece and symbolized the power of his city.

In 394, the Roman Emperor Theodosius decided to outlaw the Games, which he deemed pagan.



### TIPS & TRICKS



**Unable to express how you feel** because you can't find the right word? Don't worry! **Make the most of reading** to enrich your vocabulary. Try not to skip words you don't understand or paragraphs you find boring. **All words, and all the ways to put them together,** are good to know.



Almost fifteen hundred years later, in 1894, the Frenchman Pierre de Coubertin was inspired by the ancient Games and decided to organize the first modern Olympic Games in Athens. The aim was to educate young people about physical activity and to promote world peace. To help him do that, he created the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Only men could compete in the first Olympic Games in Athens in 1896, and the events were limited to nine sports.

In 1900, the Games were opened to women and special games were organized for winter sports in 1924 in Chamonix, France.

Ever since the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, Germany, a flame has been lit in Olympia and passed on in a relay to the host city's stadium.

During the opening ceremony, an athlete, a judge, and a coach all take the Olympic oath before the symbolic dove release.

Since 1904, awards have been handed out to the top three winners in each event—a gold medal for first place, silver for second, and bronze for third.

Today, the Olympic and Paralympic Summer Games are held every four years and bring together some 10,000 athletes from 200 countries.

Since the 1994 Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway, the Winter and Summer Games have alternated. They involve 80 countries, which compete in over a dozen events.

In 2022 the Winter Games will be held in Beijing, China, and in 2024 the Summer Games will be held in Paris, France.

Since 2012, the Youth Olympic Games—open to teens over 14—have also been held every four years, alternating between summer and winter. The next Winter Youth Olympic Games will take place in Gangwon, South Korea.

## Exercise 2

The modern Games were passed down from the Games of Olympia. Use the table below to identify what they have in common and how they differ:

	In Olympia	Today
Host country		
Origin and meaning		
Frequency		
Nationality and sex		
Number of winners per event		
Award		
Penalty for cheating		
Flame lighting and oath		





## ▶ ACTIVITY 2: THE LEXICAL LEGACY OF MYTHOLOGY AND THE GAMES IN ANCIENT TIMES

**FUN FACT!** In ancient times, sports and physical activity were so important in education that many sports terms used today come from that period.

### Exercise 1

From the list below, find the meaning of each word of Latin or Greek origin.

Use your dictionary if needed.

- A track or course used for horse racing in ancient Greece or Rome.
- Of equal rank, tied.
- An event including five different athletic events.
- A person who plays a sport or does a physical activity.
- A building used for training and physical exercise.
- A space equipped for sports and surrounded by stands and rows of seats.
- A three-level platform where competition winners stand, especially at the Olympic Games.

Expression	Meaning
Ex aequo	
Pentathlon	
Gymnasium	
Stadium	
Athlete	
Podium	
Hippodrome	

### Exercise 2

It's your turn! Do you know any other words related to sports that share the following Greek roots?

Greek root	Greek root meaning	English term
Cyclo-	Circle	
Hippo-	Horse	
Deca-	Ten	
-machy	Battle, fight	
Nau-	Boat	
-drome	Course, track	



**▶ FIND OUT MORE:**

Greek and Roman mythology have even inspired the names of certain companies and sportswear brands—like Nike, named after the Greek goddess of victory.

**Exercise 3**

Many idiomatic expressions used today come from Greek mythology and the ancient Olympic Games. Use your dictionary to find the origin and meaning of the following expressions:

Expression	Origin	Meaning
A Herculean task		
An Achilles heel		
A laureate		
A Trojan horse		

**▶ FIND OUT MORE:**

In ancient Greece, a **hecatomb** was an annual event in Athens that took place during the Panathenaic festival, when Athenians would sacrifice 100 oxen for the goddess Athena. The root *hecato* means “hundred” in Greek.

Nowadays, the term hecatomb is generally used to refer to a massacre or a significant loss of life.



### ▶ ACTIVITY 3: SPORTS LANGUAGE BEYOND SPORTS

**FUN FACT!** Some words or expressions have a literal sense (the usual or standard meaning) and a figurative sense (a symbolic meaning). There are a number of expressions from the world of sports that are now used in everyday language. So it's important to know the figurative meaning, rather than just the literal meaning.

Use your dictionary to find the literal and figurative meaning of certain expressions from the world of sports:

Expression	Literal meaning	Figurative meaning
Pass the torch		
Go for gold		
Be in the home stretch (or home straight)		
Have the inside track		
Be a frontrunner		
Throw in the towel		
Freewheel		



## ► FIND OUT MORE:

The origin of the word “**champion**” is neither Greek nor Latin, but dates back to the Middle Ages. In those days, a champion was someone who was willing to defend the truth or fight on behalf of another person in a duel—from the French *champion*.

Nowadays, a champion is someone who gives his or her best to excel in sports or any other area.



## REVIEW

- 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.
- Deepen your vocabulary in a specific topic (like sports, for example) to become an expert in the field.



## NOW, TAKE ACTION!

- **Try not to use words like “stuff” or “thing”,** and instead find the right word.
- **For fun, think of definitions for simple words,** like in the dictionary (e.g. ball, racket, exchange, etc.).
- **Look up words you don’t know in the dictionary** on a regular basis.
- **For fun, find synonyms** for simple words (e.g. do, throw, heat, etc.).
- **Read books, comics, magazines, and newspapers** because reading enriches your vocabulary.



## IT'S YOUR TURN!

CYCLE 3 • LANGUAGE STUDIES: VOCABULARY



# VOCABULARY FOR SPORTS AND ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT

## PUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO THE TEST

### 1 SELECT THE WORDS THAT HAVE A GREEK OR LATIN ORIGIN:

- Sport    Gymnasium    Sprint    Hippodrome    Triathlon

### 2 WHAT YEAR WERE THE MODERN OLYMPIC GAMES CREATED?

- 776 B.C.    1894    1924

### 3 WHAT DID EVENT WINNERS AT THE ANCIENT GAMES OF OLYMPIA RECEIVE?

- A wreath of leaves    A diploma    A brooch

### 4 SINCE WHEN HAVE WOMEN BEEN ABLE TO TAKE PART IN SOME OLYMPIC EVENTS?

- 1900    1924    1948

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE FURTHER

### 1 THE OLYMPIC FLAG HAS SIX COLORS: THE COLORS OF THE FIVE RINGS AND A WHITE BACKGROUND. THE COLORS WERE CHOSEN SO THAT EVERY COUNTRY INVOLVED IN THE OLYMPIC GAMES COULD FIND AT LEAST ONE COLOR FROM ITS OWN NATIONAL FLAG. JAPAN IS SET TO HOST THE NEXT SUMMER OLYMPICS. WHAT ARE THE COLORS OF THE JAPANESE FLAG?

- Red, white, and black    Red, blue, and white    Red and white

### 2 FRENCH HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN AN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE IOC. WHAT IS ANOTHER IOC OFFICIAL LANGUAGE?

- Latin    English    German

### 3 WHAT IS ANOTHER WORD FOR THE FICTIONAL CHARACTERS CREATED FOR EACH OLYMPIAD, AND WHICH HAVE BEEN USED TO SYMBOLIZE OLYMPIC VALUES SINCE 1972?

- A mascot    A trinket    A marmot



**4 GOLD MEDALS WERE MADE OF GOLD UNTIL 1912. WHAT ARE THEY MADE OF TODAY?**

- Gold-coated plastic
- Gold-plated silver
- Gold-coated rubber

**5 AN OLYMPIC RECORD IS ALWAYS A WORLD RECORD.**

- True
- False

**6 WHICH COUNTRY ALWAYS ENTERS THE STADIUM FIRST AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES OPENING CEREMONY?**

- France
- The United States
- Greece

**KICK OFF THE DISCUSSION... GIVE YOUR OPINION**

**THE FRENCHMAN PIERRE DE COUBERTIN WAS INSPIRED BY SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND THAT PRIORITIZED ATHLETICS, AND SO HE DECIDED TO CREATE THE MODERN OLYMPIC GAMES.**



**DO YOU THINK YOUR SCHOOL SETS ASIDE ENOUGH TIME FOR SPORTS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY?**

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# IT'S YOUR TURN! ANSWER KEY

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