

Unit 6: Competitions - Reading

Ex 1: Write the meanings of these following words

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| - Bobsledding (n): | - Brakeman (n): |
| - Bobsled (n): | - Race (n): |
| - Zip (v): | - Metal (n): |
| - Track (n): | - Artificial (adj): |
| - Roller coaster (n): | - Curve (n): |

Ex 2: Read and choose the best answers.

Have you ever watched bobsledding on TV during the Winter Olympics? Racers push a bobsled and then quickly jump into it. Then they zip down an icy track that looks like a frozen roller coaster! Bobsleds can go as fast as 140 kilometers an hour. Moving that fast must be very exciting and a little scary! Bobsled teams have either two or four people. All teams have a driver and a brakeman. The driver controls the bobsled. The brakeman stops it after the race. Four-person teams have a driver, a brakeman, and two pushers. They help push the bobsled when the race begins.



Bobsleds are made of strong, light metals. Two-person bobsleds are 2.7 meters long. The ones for four people are 3.8 meters long. Bobsled tracks are covered with thick artificial ice. They are around 1,500 meters long. The tracks have at least 15 curves. Going around the curves quickly can be dangerous. So racers need to be very careful. At the Olympics, two-person teams go down the track twice. Four-person teams do it four times. The team that has the fastest time wins the gold medal! The best teams can finish the race in under a minute!

- What is this passage mainly about?
 - how bobsleds are made
 - the origins of the Winter Olympics
 - the sport of bobsledding
- How fast can bobsleds go?
 - 120 kilometers an hour
 - 140 kilometers an hour
 - 210 kilometers an hour
- What does a brakeman do?
 - builds the bobsled
 - controls the bobsled
 - stops the bobsled
- Which is true about bobsled tracks?
 - They are around 150 meters long.
 - They are covered with thin ice.
 - They have 15 or more curves.
- Two-person teams race during the Olympics.
 - once
 - twice
 - four times

Ex 3: Read and choose the best answer

Today's Olympics originated from the ancient Greek Olympics. What were the first Olympics like? The ancient Olympics started as a way to worship Zeus, king of the Greek gods. They were part of a larger festival. The games were very important to the Greeks. Ancient Greece was made up of states that often fought with one another. Holding the Olympics reminded them that they were all Greeks. A month before the event, they stopped fighting. That way, people could travel to the games safely.

The rules were different from those of today's Olympics. First, only male Greek citizens could compete. Women could not participate and married women couldn't even watch. Furthermore, athletes had to follow one important rule: they had to be naked! In the ancient games, there were familiar events. They had running, the long jump, and discus throwing. But there were some ancient sports, too. There was a

chariot racing event. The games also included pankration, a mixture of boxing and wrestling. Each event had only one winner, who got a wreath of olive leaves as a prize. Poets also wrote songs about the winners.

A. Choose the best answer

- What is this passage mainly about?
 - what the ancient Greek Olympics were like
 - why the ancient Greeks created the Olympics
 - how the ancient Olympics were similar to today's Olympics
 - where the rules for the Olympics originated from
- Why were the ancient Olympics first created?
 - to honor the heroes of the past
 - to worship the god Zeus
 - to make Greek sports more popular
 - to find the strongest fighters
- What is NOT true about the ancient Olympics?
 - Sports were part of the ceremony.
 - Not all women could watch the games.
 - Athletes wore special clothes when they competed.
 - People stopped fighting a month before the games.
- What prize did the winner of an event get?
 - a golden discus
 - a new chariot for racing
 - a sum of money
 - a wreath of olive leaves
- Who could participate in the ancient Olympic Games?
=> Only _____ could participate.
- What was the pankration event like?
=> It was a mixture of _____ and _____.

B. Complete the table

The Ancient Greek Olympics

Purpose	The first Olympics were held to _____ Zeus.
Importance	- Greek states stopped _____ before the Olympics. - The Olympics _____ everyone that they were all Greeks.
Rules & Games	- Athletes had to be male _____. - Athletes had to be _____ when they competed. - Married women were not _____ to watch the games. - There were many events, such as running and chariot racing.
Prize	The winner got a(n) _____ of olive leaves and a poet's song.

naked wreath reminded citizens allowed worship fighting

