



Olympic History



Read the following passage about the history of the Olympics.

The first Olympic Games started in Olympia, Greece around 3,000 years ago. The games were held about every four years in honor of the gods. The first Olympic games had only one event, a sprinting race. The winners of the games were the heroes and became very famous. Over time the games began to change, and during the 14th Olympic Games a second event was added. It was a longer race around a track. Over the years other events such as wrestling, chariot racing, boxing, and the pentathlon were added.

A pentathlon included five events: the discus, long jump, javelin throw, wrestling, and a sprint race. In the early games, there were very few rules. This made participating in the games very dangerous. Athletes were often injured and some even died. In 398 AD the Romans banned the Olympic Games from being played. They were not held again until 1896.



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Answer the questions below using the passage you just read.

How long ago were the first Olympic Games played?

When was a second event added to the Olympic Games?

What event was it?

What is a pentathlon?

Why was it so dangerous to participate in the Olympic Games?
