

In the discus event the athletes threw a disk-shaped object for distance. The discus itself was made of stone or, later, iron, lead, or bronze.



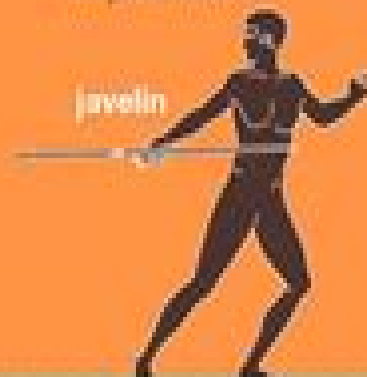
discus

To increase their distance, the athletes held weights. They swung them above their heads on takeoff and threw them behind them before landing.



long jump

The javelin was a wooden rod with one end sharpened. The athletes held a leather strap placed around the rod that helped them to throw the javelin farther.



javelin

Two- and four-horse chariot races as well as horse riding races made up the equestrian events. The owners of the chariots or horses, not the participants, won.



equestrian events

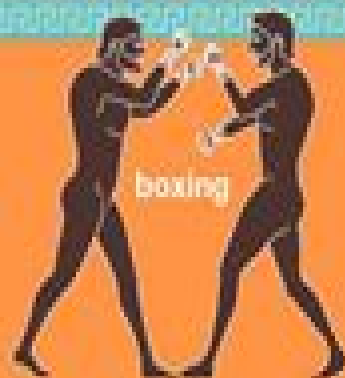
## ANCIENT OLYMPIC GAMES

The Olympic Games began in Olympia, Greece, in 776 bc and took place every four years until ad 393. They were held in honor of Zeus. At the first Games, athletes competed in only one running event held on a single day. However, over the years other events were added, and the Games eventually were expanded to five days.



running events

There were four running events, all of which consisted of a predetermined number of laps in the stadium. In one race the athletes wore armor and carried a shield.



boxing

The athletes wrapped their hands and wrists in leather. Later they added metal on their knuckles. An athlete won when his opponent was knocked out or gave up.



wrestling

The athletes fought with bare hands while standing up. An athlete won after he forced his opponent's hip, shoulder, or back to the ground three times.



pankration

The pankration was a combination of wrestling and boxing. The only rules were that an athlete could not bite his opponent or gouge at his eyes or nose.

# Encyclopedia Of The Olympic Games

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## Encyclopedia Of The Olympic Games:

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### **Table of Contents Encyclopedia Of The Olympic Games**

1. Understanding the eBook Encyclopedia Of The Olympic Games
  - The Rise of Digital Reading Encyclopedia Of The Olympic Games
  - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Encyclopedia Of The Olympic Games
  - Exploring Different Genres
  - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
  - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
  - Popular eBook Platforms
  - Features to Look for in an Encyclopedia Of The Olympic Games
  - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Encyclopedia Of The Olympic Games
  - Personalized Recommendations
  - Encyclopedia Of The Olympic Games User Reviews and Ratings
  - Encyclopedia Of The Olympic Games and Bestseller Lists

5. Accessing Encyclopedia Of The Olympic Games Free and Paid eBooks
  - Encyclopedia Of The Olympic Games Public Domain eBooks
  - Encyclopedia Of The Olympic Games eBook Subscription Services
  - Encyclopedia Of The Olympic Games Budget-Friendly Options
6. Navigating Encyclopedia Of The Olympic Games eBook Formats
  - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
  - Encyclopedia Of The Olympic Games Compatibility with Devices
  - Encyclopedia Of The Olympic Games Enhanced eBook Features
7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
  - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Encyclopedia Of The Olympic Games
  - Highlighting and Note-Taking Encyclopedia Of The Olympic Games
  - Interactive Elements Encyclopedia Of The Olympic Games
8. Staying Engaged with Encyclopedia Of The Olympic Games
  - Joining Online Reading Communities
  - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
  - Following Authors and Publishers Encyclopedia Of The Olympic Games
9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Encyclopedia Of The Olympic Games
  - Benefits of a Digital Library
  - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Encyclopedia Of The Olympic Games
10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
  - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
  - Minimizing Distractions
  - Managing Screen Time
11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Encyclopedia Of The Olympic Games
  - Setting Reading Goals Encyclopedia Of The Olympic Games
  - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Encyclopedia Of The Olympic Games
  - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Encyclopedia Of The Olympic Games
  - Distinguishing Credible Sources
13. Promoting Lifelong Learning

- Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
- Exploring Educational eBooks

### 14. Embracing eBook Trends

- Integration of Multimedia Elements
- Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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