

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC GAMES

(BEIJING 2008 HANDBOOK)

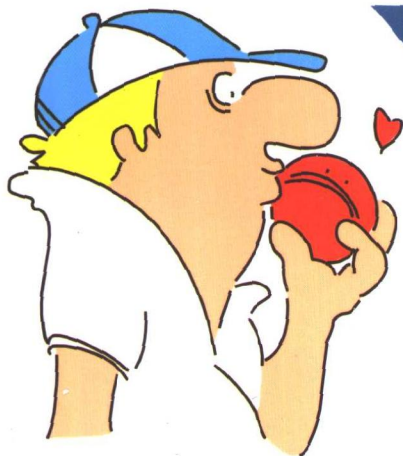
奥林匹克

小故事

Dennis Hagen

陈辉岳

编著



中学生英语文库



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Preface

Beijing, 2008 was the theme of the successful bid for the Olympic Games to come to China. This book will explain both the history of the modern games beginning in Athens in 1896 and the individual sporting events from ancient archery to modern yachting. This background information will be an excellent preparation for the Olympic Games in China.

In 1766, the British archaeologist Richard Chandler discovered the site of the ancient Greek city called Olympia. From 1875-1881, the German archaeologist Ernst Curtius removed the mud that covered the original Olympic Games playing fields.

The idea of a rebirth or renaissance of the ancient Olympic Games was started by the Frenchman Pierre de Coubertin. He introduced the idea in 1892 with little success. He decided to invite people from throughout the world to a sports congress in Paris in 1894. This group recommended that the revival of the games should begin in 1896, appropri-

ately in the country of Greece, in the capital city of Athens. They also recommended that the games should occur every four years in major international cities.

The philosophy of the contest was to be fair competition between nations with equal opportunity to participate. Even today, this philosophy lives on in the modern Olympic Games.

序 言

公元前 776 年在古希腊的奥林匹亚已经有了奥林匹克运动的初步概念,而现代奥林匹克运动则是在法国教育家皮埃尔·德·顾拜旦(Pierre de Coubertin)的倡导与组织下于 1894 年在巴黎成立国际奥林匹克委员会而开始的。发展到如今,奥林匹克运动不仅是世界上规模最大的体育活动,而且对社会各方面,各个领域产生了极其广泛而深远的影响。奥林匹克格言“更快、更高、更强”和“参与比取胜更为重要”的名言已成为鼓舞全人类不断进取的力量。

在中国举办奥运会是近一百年来中国人民的长期愿望,2001 年 7 月 13 日北京申奥成功终于圆了我们几代人的梦想。在申奥成功的情况下,中国人民已向全世界庄严许诺要争取把 2008 年北京奥运会办成比历届奥运会都好的盛会。为此,我们不仅要为来自世界各地的运动员创造一流的比赛环境和条件,为与会的朋友提供最好的设施和服务,而且更重要的是让全国人民特别是青年学生更好地了解和发扬“相互了解、友谊、团结和公平竞争”的奥运精神,借此提高我们的体育素质和全民素质,向全世界展现中国人民崭新的奥运精神风貌。

正是在这样的背景下,我们决定编写《奥林匹克小故事》(Internatinal Olympic Games),简单扼要地向大家介绍奥运史、奥运精神及比赛项目,以此作为我们给 2008 年北京奥运会的献礼。

本书内容可分为三个部分:(一)介绍公元前 776 年古希腊奥林匹亚运动会的情况,以及从 1896 年雅典第一届奥运会到 2000 年悉尼第二十七届奥运会的历届奥运会举办背景、特色及主要成绩。(二)分篇介绍奥运会竞赛的各个项目。(三)介绍我国最有代表性的奥运金牌获奖者:邓亚萍与李宁。在附录中还列出了中国运动员在历届奥运会上的得奖者名单及项目。

除了获取上述信息外,读者通过听、读本书还可以熟悉并掌握各项体育活动及奥运知识的常用英语词汇及惯用习语。这对于 2008 年北京奥运会举行时与外国朋友交流也是很有益处的。

本书的词汇凡超出高考及高中教学用词的在各课 Words & Phrases 栏目中均用中文予以注释并加注音标。书后还附有总词汇表,每篇短文后还有 3 个理解测试题,帮助你检查自己的理解程度。本书的配套录音带共四盒,由上海外语音像出版社出版。

欢迎广大读者对本书及本丛书的编写提出宝贵意见,以便我们进一步改进。

陈辉岳

2002 年 4 月于上海

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1. Olympia

The idea of athletic competition is common to all countries. However, it was the country of Greece that is remembered as the first to hold what we call the Olympic Games.

Historical records reveal that the city of Olympia held national competition for Greek citizens. In 776 B. C. , competitors came to this city at least 30 days before the games began. They lived together in a similar fashion to what we call the Olympic Village today.

The athletes ate the same diet of food. They were in similar accommodations for sleeping quarters. They listened to lectures as to the importance of the Olympic Games. They were instructed to be good sports and abide by the rules of the games.

The games lasted for five days. They included the competitions of running, wrestling, horse riding, chariot racing, long jumping, discus and javelin throwing. The victors received an olive wreath, a certificate of 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place, and a silver medal.

Each athlete carried the pride of his city-state similar to the fame of Olympic athletes today. The excitement of the ancient city-state has increased today to the excitement of a nation, even the world as television now makes it possible for every country to watch and cheer athletes from all over the world.

The Olympics were first held as a festival in honor of Zeus, the mythical chief god of the Greeks. In 475 B. C. a temple to Zeus was built in Olympia. The seated god was in a room that was 18 meters high and his head nearly touched the ceiling. The sculptors used much gold in his clothing with ivory for the skin or flesh. In his hand was a small statue of Nike, the winged goddess of victory. This statue and temple were so impressive that it became known as one of the seven ancient wonders of the world.

As Greek citizens came to watch the Olympic Games, they also came to see this world wonder. Today, citizens of the world become tourists wherever the games are held. The original spirit of the Olympics continues today with impressive stadiums, swimming pools, and playing fields.

Comprehension Check

1. Olympic athletes received training in four areas before the Olympics began. Which area do you think was the most important?
 - A. nutrition
 - B. proper rest
 - C. importance of the Games
 - D. good sportsmanship