Grade 5 – Let the Games Begin

- 1- Answer the following questions orally with someone in your family:
 - Have you or your team ever competed for a medal or trophy?
 - What did you do to prepare yourself?
 - How did you feel when you won or lost?
- 2- Read the text Let the Games Begin on pages 2 to 4.
- 3- Fill out a comparison chart on page 5. Compare the Olympics when they first began to what they are today. Use the text to find information about the first Olympics and use your general knowledge for today's Olympics. Send me your work at melanie.custeau2@csmb.gc.ca.

GAMES GAMES BEGIN

warm up

Have you or your team ever competed for a medal or trophy? What did you do to prepare yourself? How did you feel when you won or lost?

★ THE OLYMPICS ★

oday, whenever the Olympic Games are held, people from all over the world stay glued to the television. For two weeks, the whole world shares one common focus — the Games!

Would you believe that this very special tradition began in ancient

Greece? It's true. The first Olympics (that we have written records of) took place in 776 BCE. Now that was a long time ago!

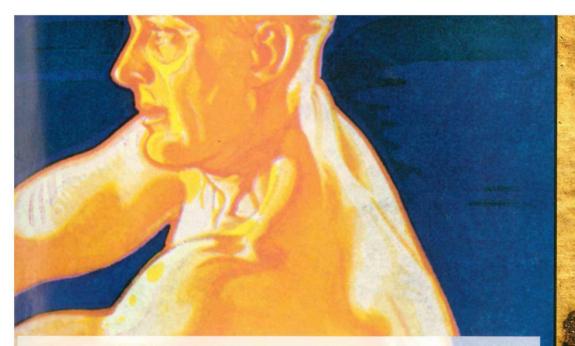
The games were different then. Athletes represented themselves, not a country as they do today.

CHECKPOINT

Do you think this was a good idea? Should that still happen today?

And they did it in the nude! That's right — athletes in the very first Olympic Games did not wear special clothing to compete. Instead, they didn't wear any clothing at all.

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Much like today, the ancient
Olympics were a very special event.
The Greeks actually started the
Games to honour their gods. They
believed that fighting would
disappoint the gods, so for one
month all war and fighting stopped.
Many soldiers even became athletes
during this time of peace. After the
Games, soldiers could travel back to
the battleground without concern
that they might be attacked.

The Olympics were held every four years just as they are today. But in the beginning, only one competition was held. It was a foot race. Gradually, the Games included other events

such as chariot racing, boxing, and wrestling.

When athletes won events, their skills and hard work were rewarded. They were given crowns made from olive leaves. Statues were also made in their honour.

Today, wars may not stop and athletes may not be naked, but everyone still cheers when the Olympics roll around every four years.



Only men, boys, and unmarried women were allowed to watch the games. If slaves, girls, or married women were caught attending, they would be severely punished by the law.



Let the games begin

Compare the Olympics when they first began to what they are today. Use the comparison chart below.

Information	First Olympics	Modern Olympics
For what reason are		
there Olympics?		
Who do the athletes		
represent?		
How often are the		
Olympics held?		
What competitions are included?		(name a few)
are included?		
What reward do the		
athletes get?		
Who can attend the games?		
gumes		