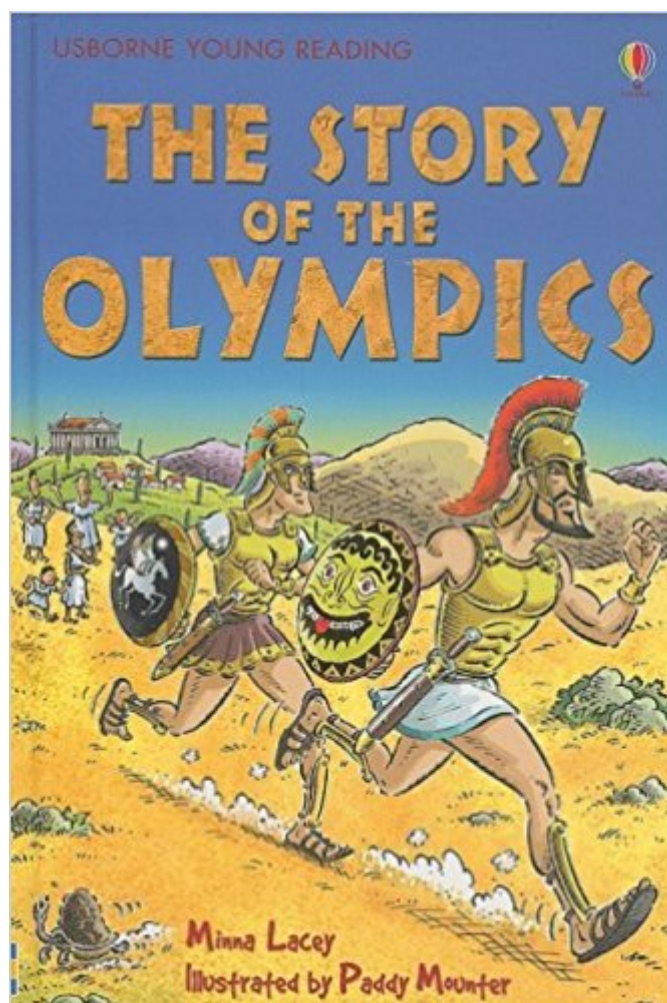


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# The Story Of The Olympics (Usborne Young Reading: Series Two)



## Synopsis

From a festival in ancient Greece to a worldwide event today, the Olympics have inspired athletes and supporters alike. Find out how the biggest sports event in the world was born and discover the amazing heroes who made Olympic history.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1040L (What's this?)

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,000,113 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #69 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Olympics #1382 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Chapter Books & Readers > Intermediate Readers

Age Range: 9 and up

Grade Level: 4 and up

## Customer Reviews

From a festival in ancient Greece to a worldwide event today, the Olympics have inspired athletes and supporters alike. Find out how the biggest sports event in the world was born and discover the amazing heroes who made Olympic history.

Good book, longer than I thought it was so not best for a read aloud for my students. Also, some of the cartoon pictures show bare bodies and bottoms (which is historically accurate), but I couldn't show to my students. I colored in little shorts to make it appropriate.

The Summer Olympics are over for another four years. The next one is scheduled in London in 2012. The next Winter Olympics will be held in Vancouver in 2010. There will always be a two-year wait between Summer and Winter Olympic events. How do I know these things? The London-based

Usborne children's publisher says so right in this book, "Story of the Olympics," published this past summer in time for the events held in China. You know, the one where Michael Phelps won a bunch of medals and claimed the hearts of girls all over the globe! Even though the book has cartoon people, the book has nothing "cartoon" in the information or presentation. Let's deal with the possible objectionable material right now. Do you know that the original Greeks participated naked in all physical events? Why? To show off their physiques, with plenty of young women there to see them. Many books mention this fact, but few show it, especially school-intended books. But there they are--racing down the tracks, wrestling, long-jumping, discus throwing, and the like--naked. I can tell you right now, the first person to check out this book will be a boy. He and his friends will howl with laughter at the naked men. Oh, did I say that every picture is most discreet in showing this nudity--carefully placed arms, legs, discus. Only side views of buttocks--cartoon buttocks--are things you can't see at the beach or on men working in their yards. As for the rest of the book, it is written for the 9-12 audience in straightforward language, accompanied by color illustrations. I cannot imagine anything left out in this short, but thorough history of the Olympics. Usborne ranks just slightly below DK's Eyewitness series in quality. Here is a short list of information included: Origin Brief mythology Architecture of Classical Greece Chariot races Olympiad (four-year span between races) Geography War was banned one month prior to and after the games so that people from all over the known world could travel in safety to the games. Pankration (a brutal event in which men could do anything to the other except gouge eyes or bite. Broken bones often resulted.) Archaeology Baron Pierre de Coubertin (a French nobleman who is responsible for establishing the modern Olympics--April 6, 1896) Addition of women to races, events, division into Summer and Winter, specific medalists, dates, terms. One other tidbit: In 1908 the Olympics were held in London. Edward VII and Queen Alexandria wanted to watch the marathon from Windsor Castle, so the race was lengthened to 42.195km to accommodate them. It is still that distance (26 miles 385 yards). This is a highly recommended ready-reference to have for quick consult. Fun, easy, informative--a great little 64-page book is "The Story of the Olympics."

This is a great book. I love the color cartoons. And while there is a lot of information, it is not too lengthy. I would say that this is just right for a second grader (give or take). but my 4th grader enjoyed it as well, just as a quick read. I bought this book because I wanted my kids to get an idea of what the Olympics is all about (the history etc) before they start this summer in London. I have a feeling they will read this book over several times in the next few months and beyond, so we will get good use out of it. Also, my older daughter is getting into Greek Mythology now so I think this is a

nice side tie-in to that general theme.

Cute, informative, entertaining. The pictures are very cartoony be prepared for some giggling as all of the ancient Olympic athletes performed in the nude there's a lot of side butt

Will read to class in 2 weeks

Great!

My son really enjoyed this book, since we watched a lot of the Olympics this year, and it gave him some background. He then went on to the Gladiators book in the same series and swiftly read it as well. They are informative, enjoyable, and easy reads.

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