



ORIGINS OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES

The ancient Olympic Games were primarily a part of a religious festival in honour of Zeus, the father of the Greek gods and goddesses. The festival and the games were held in **Olympia**, a rural sanctuary site in the western Peloponnesus.





The Greeks that came to the Sanctuary of Zeus at Olympia shared the same religious beliefs and spoke the same language. The athletes were all male citizens of the city-states from every corner of the Greek world, coming from as far away as Iberia (Spain) in the west and the Black Sea (Turkey) in the east.

The sanctuary was named in antiquity after Mt. Olympus, the highest mountain in mainland Greece. In Greek mythology, Mt. Olympus was the home of the greatest of the Greek gods and goddesses.

The ancient Olympic Games began in the year 776 BC, when Koroibos, a cook from the nearby city of Elis, won the stadium race, a foot race 600 feet long. The stadium track at Olympia is shown here. According to some literary traditions, this was the only athletic event of the games for the first 13 Olympic festivals or until 724 BC. From 776 BC, the Games were held in Olympia every four years for almost 12 centuries.

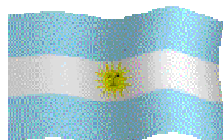
Contrary evidence, both literary and archaeological, suggests that the games may have existed at Olympia much earlier than this date, perhaps as early as the 10th or 9th century BC.

The Olympic Games



Beijing is in Pekín, the capital of China and they have a population of 17 millions. They speak Chinese.





Argentina



Football: Gold medal;; Sergio Romero; Pablo Zabaleta, Ezequiel Garay, Nicolás Pareja, Fabián Monzón; Fernando Gago, Javier Mascherano; Lionel Messi, Juan Román Riquelme; Sergio Agüero and Angel Di María. DT: Sergio Batista. They win a gold medal after playing against Nigeria. They score is 1 to 0.



Cycling: gold medal; Juan Curuchet y Walter Pérez, they win a gold medal. It is the 1st gold medal in cycling in Argentina.





basketball:
they won a
bronze
medal



Hockey: Bronze medal;
The Leonas.



Judo feminine: Paula Pareto. She is a 22
years old! “the peke”, won a bronze
medal.

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