

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Ancient Origins of the Olympic Games

### Short Answer Key

1. Possible Answer: The two mythical figures associated with the founding of the Olympic Games are Heracles (Hercules) and Pelops. Heracles is credited with founding the games in honor of his father, Zeus. Pelops, on the other hand, is associated with the games through a legendary athletic competition to win the hand of Hippodamia.
2. Possible Answer: The Sanctuary of Olympia was a sacred site dedicated to Zeus and the location where the ancient Olympic Games were held. It was significant because it provided a peaceful and neutral place for Greek city-states to compete. The site featured temples, altars, and a colossal statue of Zeus, making it a fitting location for the games.
3. Possible Answer: Three athletic competitions in the ancient Olympic Games were the stadion race (footrace), long jump, discus throw, wrestling, and the pentathlon.
4. Possible Answer: Male citizens of Greek city-states were eligible to compete in the ancient Olympics. Victory brought honor and prestige not only to the athlete but also to their hometown. It was a matter of great pride for both the athlete and their city-state.
5. Possible Answer: The ancient Olympics celebrated Greek culture and religion through sacrifices, processions, and poetry readings. Renowned playwrights like Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides premiered their plays during the Olympic festivals, showcasing Greek literature and drama. The games also fostered peace and diplomacy among city-states, promoting a sense of unity and shared identity.

