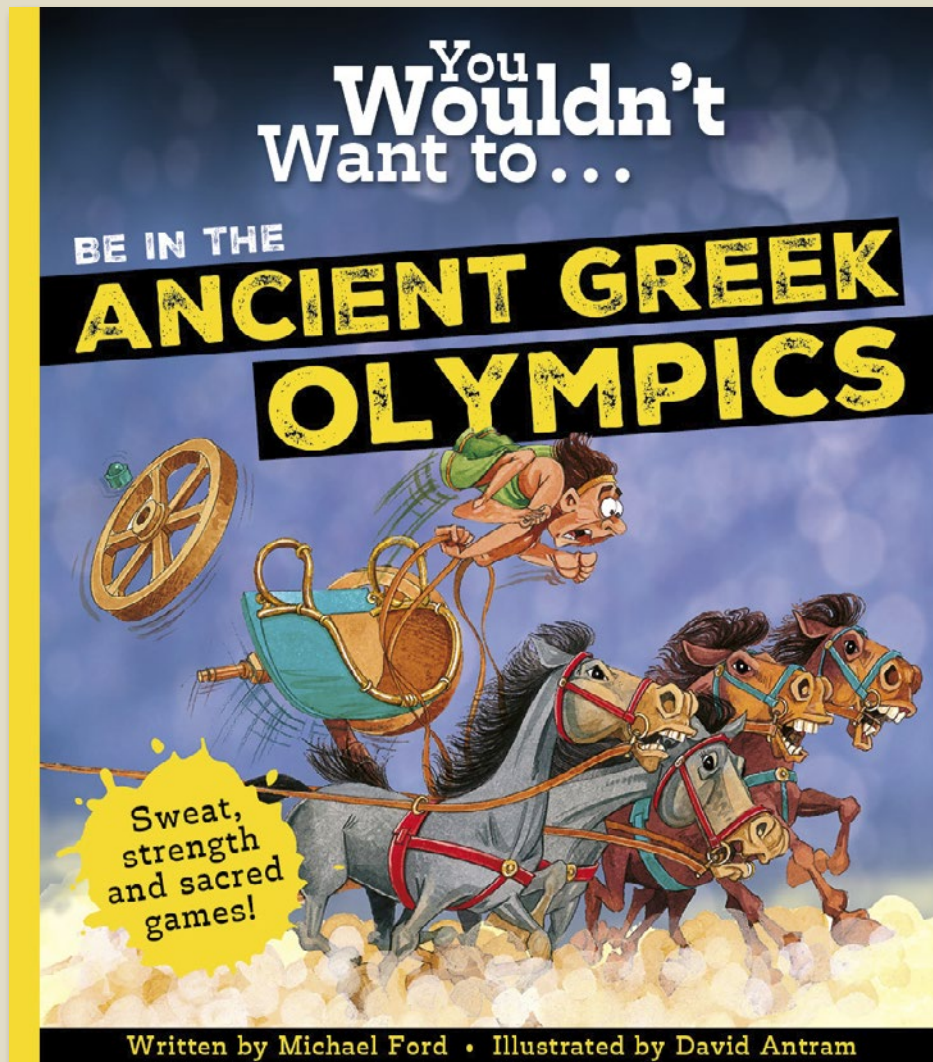


You Wouldn't Want To Be In The Ancient Greek Olympics!



An extraordinary exploration of the ancient Greek Olympics!

- History made grisly - perfect for Horrible Histories fans!
- Combines funny text and comic illustrations to fascinating facts, managing to accurately convey historical realities in an engaging, educational way.
- A hilarious, fact-filled book to engage reluctant readers with history and the key stage 2 curriculum.

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It's a man's world

Fifth-century Greece is divided into city-states. Athens is the largest and a centre of commerce, culture and learning. On a hill, the Acropolis houses the magnificent official buildings of the city, including the Parthenon. Like most Greek city-states, not all men are treated as equals in Athens. They are divided into those who are allowed to vote, called citizens, and those who are not, often slaves or foreigners. Most people are poor, and only large free-owning families receive a proper education. Your father makes you get up early every day to walk to school in the city.

Handy hint
The Parthenon was dedicated to Athena, the goddess of wisdom. It was built on the Acropolis in Athens.

POZZLES
A puzzle book and activities like this are great for the end of the year. They are a great way to test your knowledge of the year's events. This means that all the children who have done them will be able to solve them!

THE FIRST MARATHON
The first marathon was run in 490 BC. It was a long race to celebrate a Greek victory over the Persians. The race was 26 miles long and was inspired by the story of a Greek messenger who ran the distance to bring news of the victory to Athens.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM, DAVE?
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Sacrifices to the gods

When you arrive at Olympia, the place is a hub of activity. Many athletes from all over the Greek world have come to take part - women are not allowed to enter. You are astounded at how beautiful the place is. Temples and other marble buildings rise amongst the olive and cypress trees.

The Games will not start for another ten months, so you have plenty of time for training and you will eat, exercise and sleep with the other athletes. About all the Games are a religious festival sacred to the god Zeus. To ensure the gods look favourably upon you, you visit the Temple of Zeus regularly to make offerings.

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Practice makes perfect

Athletes at the Games are fine physical specimens, men who have been in training for months. Your technique will have to be spot on if you are going to win. Warm up well and roll oil into your body to make yourself limber. Other athletes go for the crowd, flexing their muscles, but you must focus. Don't think about them, or your father, watching from the stands. Plovers (Plovers) play to help you relax and to entertain the crowd.

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At the stadium

Up to 50,000 spectators gather on the slopes around the stadium. The oldest and most important event at the Games is running. The noise from the crowd is deafening but you must concentrate on the race ahead. An announcer reads out your name and place of birth. You take off your clothes in a small building at the side of the stadium and rub yourself down with olive oil. Everyone competes in the nude as a symbol of purity. There's no need to be embarrassed - women are not allowed to watch the competitions.

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Handy hint
Get a good start at the very beginning of the race. Using the grooves in the starting blocks will give you an advantage.

STARTING BLOCKS
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