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Excerpt
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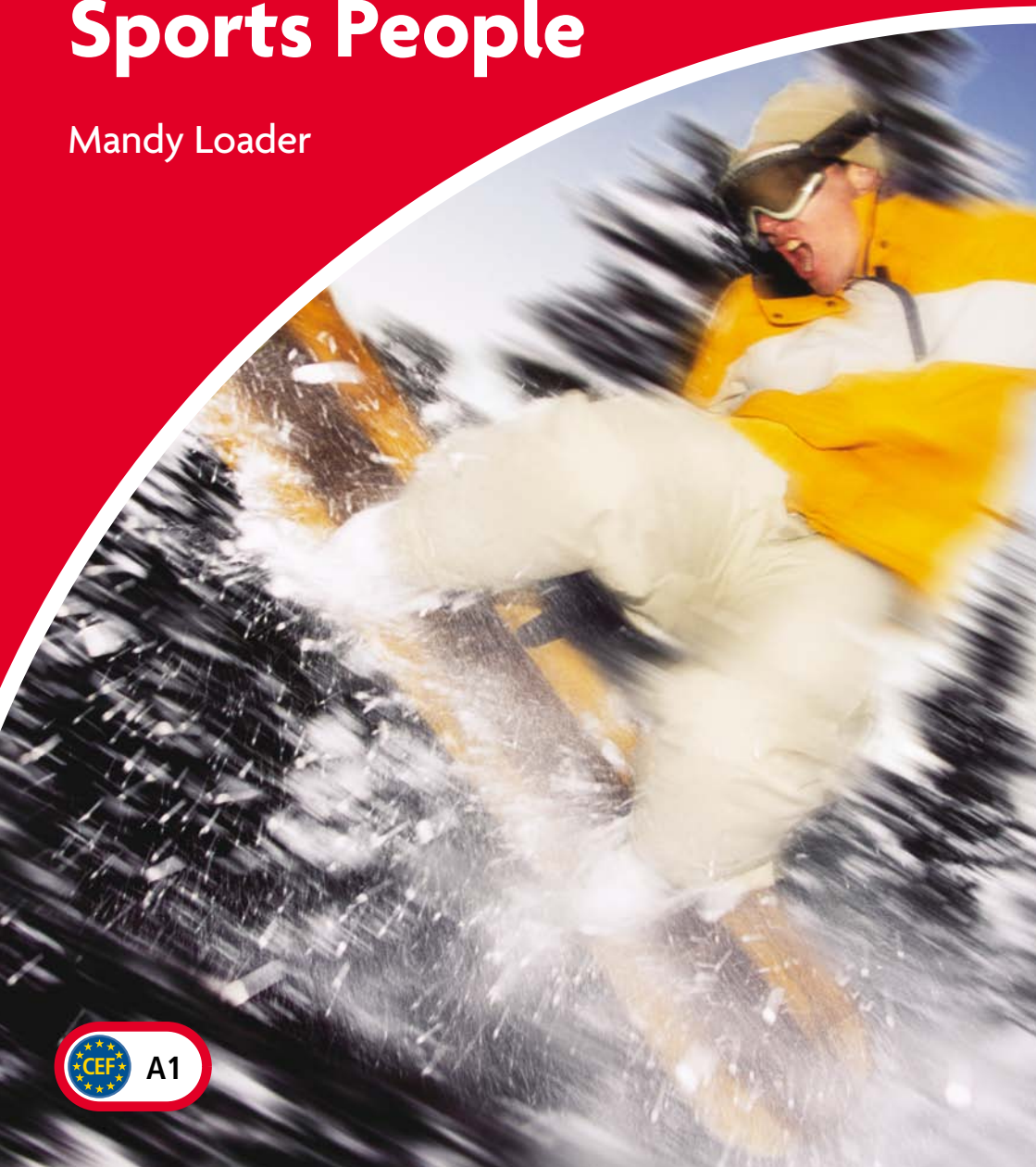
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Cambridge
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Readers

Amazing Young Sports People

Mandy Loader



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Chapter 1

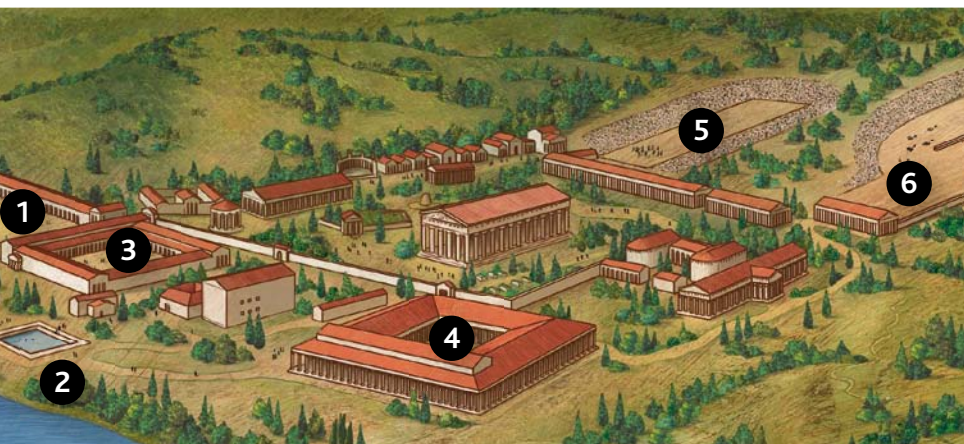
The Olympic Games

FACT

When: The first Olympic Games were in 776 BC.

Where: Olympia, Greece.

How often: Every four years.



Olympia

- 1 Runners practised here for the running races¹.
- 2 The swimming pool was only used for fun.
There weren't any swimming races.
- 3 Athletes practised here for the long jump competitions.
- 4 This hotel was for important people.
- 5 Forty thousand people sat in this stadium².
- 6 The horse races were here.

Thousands of people came to Olympia for the first Olympic Games. They came from lots of different towns in Greece.

At first there were only short running races. Later there were jumping competitions, boxing competitions and also horse racing. The Games were fun. People sold food, drink and flowers. There were singers and dancers too.



Only men played in the Games. In today's Olympics, athletes wear shorts and shirts, but in the first games, the athletes didn't wear anything. There weren't any women watching the Games!

In Greece, at that time, there was a lot of fighting³. But the Games started and everybody stopped fighting for a month. They went to the Games. Then the Games finished and people started fighting again.

There were Games at Olympia every four years for a thousand years. They stopped around 400 AD and didn't start again for nearly 1500 years.

Today there are two Olympic Games: the Summer Olympics and the Winter Olympics.

FACT

When: The modern Summer Olympic Games started in 1896. The Winter Olympics started in 1924.

Where: In different countries in the world.

How often: Every four years.

The modern Olympic Games aren't always in Greece. They're in a different country each time.

Thousands of athletes – men *and* women – come to the modern Olympics. They come from over two hundred different countries in the world. They all want to win medals for their countries: a gold medal is for first, a silver medal is for second and a bronze medal is for third.



FACT

The Summer Olympics: Some of the competitions at the Summer Olympics are running, jumping, boxing, cycling, swimming and horse riding.

The Winter Olympics: Some of the competitions at the Winter Olympics are skiing, ski jumping, skating, ice hockey and snowboarding.

In Olympia, a short time before the Olympic Games, eleven women light the flame on the Olympic torch. Then athletes take the torch from Olympia in Greece to the Olympic stadium. This can be a long run. Sometimes the Olympic torch needs to go on a ship⁴ or a plane⁵. In 2008 over 20,000 athletes took the torch from Olympia to Beijing, China.

After many days or weeks, the last athlete arrives and lights the big flame in the Olympic stadium. Now the Games can start!



the Olympic torch

LOOKING BACK

- 1 Check your answers to *Before you read* on page 4.

ACTIVITIES

- 2 Complete the sentences with the names in the box.

Tom (x3)	Mum	Dad	Annie (x2)	Neil (x2)
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- 1 *Mum* leaves the house and goes to work.
- 2 is Tom's sister.
- 3 It's 's birthday.
- 4 is twelve today.
- 5 is going shopping.
- 6 works at home.
- 7 is Tom's friend.
- 8 is at the park.
- 9 isn't happy.

- 3 Underline the correct words in each sentence.

- 1 Mum is thinking about her work / *Tom's birthday*.
- 2 Annie *has* / *hasn't* got a present for Tom.
- 3 Tom's *father* / *mother* has got a computer.
- 4 Tom *has got some* / *hasn't got any* birthday money.
- 5 Tom's father *can* / *can't* go shopping.
- 6 Dad is *listening to Tom* / *reading his email*.
- 7 Tom speaks to *Neil* / *Neil's mother*.
- 8 Neil *knows* / *doesn't know* it's Tom's birthday.

4 Who do the underlined words refer to in these lines from the text?

Annie (x2)	Tom	Dad
Mum	Tom and Dad	Neil

- 1 'See you tonight.' (page 5)Tom.....
- 2 He doesn't want her to go. (page 6)
- 3 She goes to the door. (page 7)
- 4 Tom finds him at his desk. (page 7)
- 5 'Can we go shopping?' (page 8)
- 6 'She's shopping with her friends.' (page 8)
- 7 'He's playing football in Winston Park.' (page 9)

5 Match the questions with the answers.

- 1 Why is today a special day for Tom? ☒ b
- 2 What has Tom got for his birthday? ☐
- 3 What does Tom's dad do at home? ☐
- 4 Who does Tom talk to on the phone? ☐
- 5 Who is playing football? ☐
- a He works.
- ~~b~~ It's his birthday.
- c Neil's mother.
- d He's got money.
- e Neil.

LOOKING FORWARD

6 Tick (✓) what you think happens in Chapter 2.

- 1 Tom goes to the park. ☐
- 2 Tom stays at home. ☐