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What Are The Summer Olympics? (What Was?)



Synopsis

Back in 775 BC, athletes from all over Ancient Greece came together to compete in various games. The contests were held every four years and winning athletes brought honor and respect to their homelands. The tradition of the Olympic Games faded over time until 1896, when they were brought back to life. The first modern Olympics were held in Athens, Greece, with over two hundred athletes from fourteen countries. Today, nearly three thousand years after the first Games, the Summer Olympics attract one hundred thousand top athletes from over two hundred countries. Billions of fans around the world cheer on their national teams to bring back the gold.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Quote from book: "AIDS was hushed up. Many gay men had the disease. Wrongheaded people even thought it was a punishment for being gay." I didn't think this needed to be part of a book for children that's supposed to be about the Olympics.

I thought the book was light on what I really wanted to learn - the history of the olympics and the

great stories of courage and triumph that surround the games. The book did not shy away from some of the more darker/tragic moments of the olympics - and in fact, seemed to dwell on them to a fault. Parents of children who are young need to decide if the book's content regarding racism, doping, bombings, murder, politics, etc. is appropriate for their audience - it's not diluted - it's clear and raw. I really wanted to read this book to my young athletes, but thought the content not appropriate for much younger listeners.

In my opinion, this is an inappropriate book for children. Instead of being a historical text on the Olympic Games, it sneaks in a brief authorial commentary on sexuality in an overtly PC fashion. I didn't realize I needed to pre-read these books aimed at 8-year olds.

This was an informational book. I love the "Who was/is" series. I read the book to preview it before I read it with a reading group. I was very surprised by the information on p83 and 84 about AIDS, and gay men. I did NOT think that this information was necessary. I am thinking about how to skip the last chapter, because I really think the book is great. The author did not need to add this information.

Personally I felt the AIDS part was covered fine and was appropriate for my 8 year old. I'm not sure about the need to include it, but felt it was written well.

good

Used this book as part of our summer school curriculum, and this was one the kids definitely discussed and asked a lot of questions about.

My daughter enjoyed reading this for a book report. The format is easy to follow and the facts were interesting.

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