

## Homework Tasks (Year 6):

- **Comprehension:** Please complete – and mark – ‘The Olympic Games’ on pg.2, 3 and 4 of this file. Answers can be found on pg.5. Your responses should be recorded in your Homework Jotter provided by school.
- **GPS:** Please read ‘Hairy Hands’ on pg.6 of this file then answer – and mark – the ‘Text’ and ‘Punctuation’ questions on pg.7 and 8. Answers can be found on pg.9. Please use these to help work out how to answer any questions you are unsure about. Your responses should be recorded in your Homework Jotter provided by school.

***Please ensure your completed homework is handed in at school on  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March.***

- **Spelling:** A spelling test on **Spring 2 Week 2** list of words will take place next **Friday**. The list of words is available separately on the Woodpecker Class page of the school website. Please log onto Spelling Shed to support practice at home.
- **Multiplication Facts:** A test of a variety of multiplication facts will take place every **Thursday**. Please practise all facts up to 12 x 12.
- **Reading:** You are expected to do **at least 20 minutes** of independent reading at home, **every day**. *Please remember to log all new books read – both those at home and at school – in our class reading log as there are no home reading records in Woodpecker Class:*



## The Olympic Games

Nowadays, we are used to the Olympic Games taking place every four years with familiar events each time. This is because we are used to watching the modern Olympic Games, which began in 1896 in Athens, Greece. The ancient Olympic Games also took place in Greece, but during the period of Ancient Greece. The first of the ancient Olympic Games took place around 3,000 years ago, in 776 BCE.

Originally, the Olympics were held as a religious festival to honour Zeus. As the leader of the Greek pantheon of gods, he was the most important and most worshipped of them all. The Ancient Greeks believed that Zeus lived on top of Mount Olympus, the tallest mountain in Greece. They weren't held near the mountain, though. Instead, the games were held near Olympia, which was a religious city in the southwest of Greece.

At that time, the Greeks went to war a lot. The city-states were often battling against each other as well as against foreign armies. This meant that soldiers needed to be kept fit and strong. The first games were designed for soldiers to compete against each other to keep them in top physical condition. In the beginning, these games were foot races - normally ran over a track roughly 700 feet long. The track was wide enough to fit nearly 20 men side-by-side. Like most of the events that joined later, the men ran the races completely naked!

In the modern Olympics, athletes are awarded gold, silver and bronze medals, but ancient competitors were only celebrated if they won. They were given an olive wreath rather than a medal.

The games were extended over time, and lasted for five full days by 500 BCE. By then, the events included running, jumping, multiple throwing events and physical events like boxing, wrestling and pankration. All of the athletes were naked, and women weren't allowed to compete. In fact, women weren't allowed into the arenas at all. However, there was



a loophole that allowed women to win an event. In the chariot races, the owner of the chariot was crowned winner, not the riders. Kyniska, the daughter of the Spartan king, took advantage of this by owning a winning chariot. She won a wreath in 396 BCE and 392 BCE.

The Olympics weren't just about the events and Zeus, though. There were hundreds of food stalls and market traders. On the middle day of the festival, hundreds of cows were sacrificed to Zeus. Luckily, the spectators were allowed to eat the meat in a communal BBQ.

Some things never change, and the athletes sometimes tried to cheat. If a runner was caught making a false start, they were punished severely, often by being beaten with a whip or a stick.

## RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. When and where were the first modern Olympics?
2. How often do modern Olympics take place?
3. What did athletes wear to wrestle in the ancient games?
4. How long did the ancient games end up lasting?
5. What might an athlete have done to be whipped?

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**S**

What was the main point of the first games?

**S**

How did Kyniska win a wreath? Why was this special?

**V**

Find and copy a phrase that tells you that the ancient games got longer as they went on.

**I**

Why might people have been excited to attend the games?

**V**

What are “competitors”?

Answers - Stage 6 - The Olympics:

1. 1896 - Athens, Greece
2. Every four years
3. Nothing
4. 5 days
5. A false start in a race

S: To keep the soldiers fit and healthy and ready for war

S: She was the owner of a chariot. This was the only way women could win wreaths

V: Extended over time

I: Accept answers that mention one of the following perks:

- Worship Zeus
- Watch the events
- Eat the food

V: People who took part in the events

## Hairy Hands

Henry Cobb rubbed the sleep from his eyes and refocused on the road ahead of him. On either side, the bleak, barren creases of Dartmoor disappeared into the midnight darkness. It was taking every ounce of energy to stay awake. He knew his family were waiting up for him, desperate to see him after months away.

Suddenly, the car veered sharply to the left. The rumble of the tires on the uneven dirt jolted Henry back into the land of the awake. He snatched the wheel and yanked the car back onto the road.

Then, it happened again. This time, he was awake and felt the wheel wrenched from his grasp. Once again, he fought the car back onto the road but, when he looked down, he saw the ghostly outline of a pair of hairy hands grasping the wheel.

Henry yelled and tried to wrestle back control of his vehicle. Once again, the hands fought back, forcing the car from the road. In the dim light of his headlights, Henry saw the stone wall careening towards him.

# FOCUS ON - TEXT

**1** Replace one of the pronouns with the proper noun.

Choose the most appropriate box.

Once again, **he** fought the car back onto the road, but, when **he** looked down, **he** saw the ghostly outline of a pair of hairy hands grasping the wheel.

**2** Change the past progressive verb tense into the past tense.

It **was taking** every ounce of energy to stay awake.

His family **were waiting** up for him.

**3** Underline the pronouns in the sentence below.

He knew his family was waiting up for him.

**4** Insert the adverb **alarmingly** into the sentence below

Henry saw the stone wall careening towards him.

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# FOCUS ON - PUNCTUATION

**1** Insert a pair of punctuation marks to show the parenthesis.

He knew his family whom he loved very much were waiting up for him.

**2** Which sentence is punctuated correctly?  
Tick one.

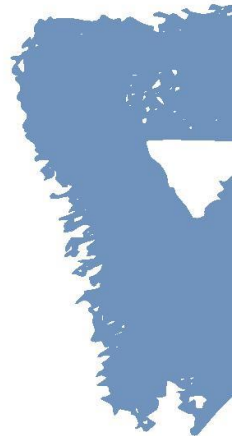
- Henry yelled, "stop!"
- Henry yelled, "Stop"
- Henry yelled, "Stop"!
- Henry yelled, "Stop!"

**3** Which sentence is punctuated correctly?  
Tick one.

- The bleak, barren creases of Dartmoor (in the south) of Devon
- disappeared into the midnight darkness.
- The bleak, barren creases of Dartmoor in the (south of Devon)
- disappeared into the midnight darkness.
- The bleak, barren creases of Dartmoor (in the south of Devon)
- disappeared into the midnight darkness.
- The bleak, barren creases of Dartmoor in the south of (Devon)
- disappeared into the midnight darkness.

**4** Insert one apostrophe in the correct place.

                       
↓                                      ↓  
The cars headlights were so dim, he just saw the stone wall heading  
towards him.  
↑





# Answers - Hairy Hands

## TEXT

1. Once again, Henry fought the car back onto the road, but, when he looked down, he saw the ghostly outline of a pair of hairy hands grasping the wheel.
2. It took every ounce of energy to stay awake.  
His family waited up for him.
3. He knew his family was waiting up for him.
4. Alarmingly, Henry saw the stone wall careening towards him.  
Henry saw the stone wall careening alarmingly towards him.  
Henry saw the stone wall careening towards him alarmingly.

## PUNCTUATION

1. He knew his family, whom he loved very much, were waiting up for him.  
He knew his family — whom he loved very much— were waiting up for him.  
He knew his family (whom he loved very much) were waiting up for him.
2. 4th option — Henry yelled, "Stop!"
3. 3rd option — The bleak, barren creases of Dartmoor (in the south of Devon) disappeared into the midnight darkness.
4. car's