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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

Lexile Measure: 0750 (What's this?)

Series: What Was...?

Paperback: 112 pages

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Average Customer Review: 3.1 out of 5 stars See all reviews (20 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #43,448 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Track & Field #10 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Olympics #1368 in Books > Children's Books > Activities, Crafts & Games

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

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.

very sad and annoying how authors have to try and find a way to inject completely irrelevant PC agendas into books for CHILDREN. This book finds a way to sneak in the author's personal viewpoint on gay sex in a book to 8 year olds. Would never support any other works by this author.

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.

If I were going to include information about gay athletes and AIDS in a book about the Olympics, it would certainly be targeted to the highschool level. The author goes a step further and includes her opinion about the subjects, rather than merely factual information. I immediately went to her author page to see if I had any other books by her that might possibly have such information. I have not read all of the 3,000 children's books I keep on my shelves. I know such topics will come up with my children but this is WAY too young for my family.

I have bought hundreds of children's books and never write reviews. I felt it was my duty to warn other parents about this one. I have read many books in this series, and, at times, thought some of the content was inappropriate or too mature for the audience. This book contains completely age INAPPROPRIATE content. Do not let your child read this without reading it first. I was totally shocked while reading aloud to my first grader. I will not buy any other books in this series. The publisher is completely irresponsible.

I love this book because it is full of good history and it has a very detailed explanation of how the olympics started and the devices people used and they also talk about the events and they talk about the amazing accomplishments that people have done. I would definitely recommend this book. Written by a 9 year old

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