

# CLAS 0210

## Sport in the Ancient Greek World



Class 13

Friday 7 October

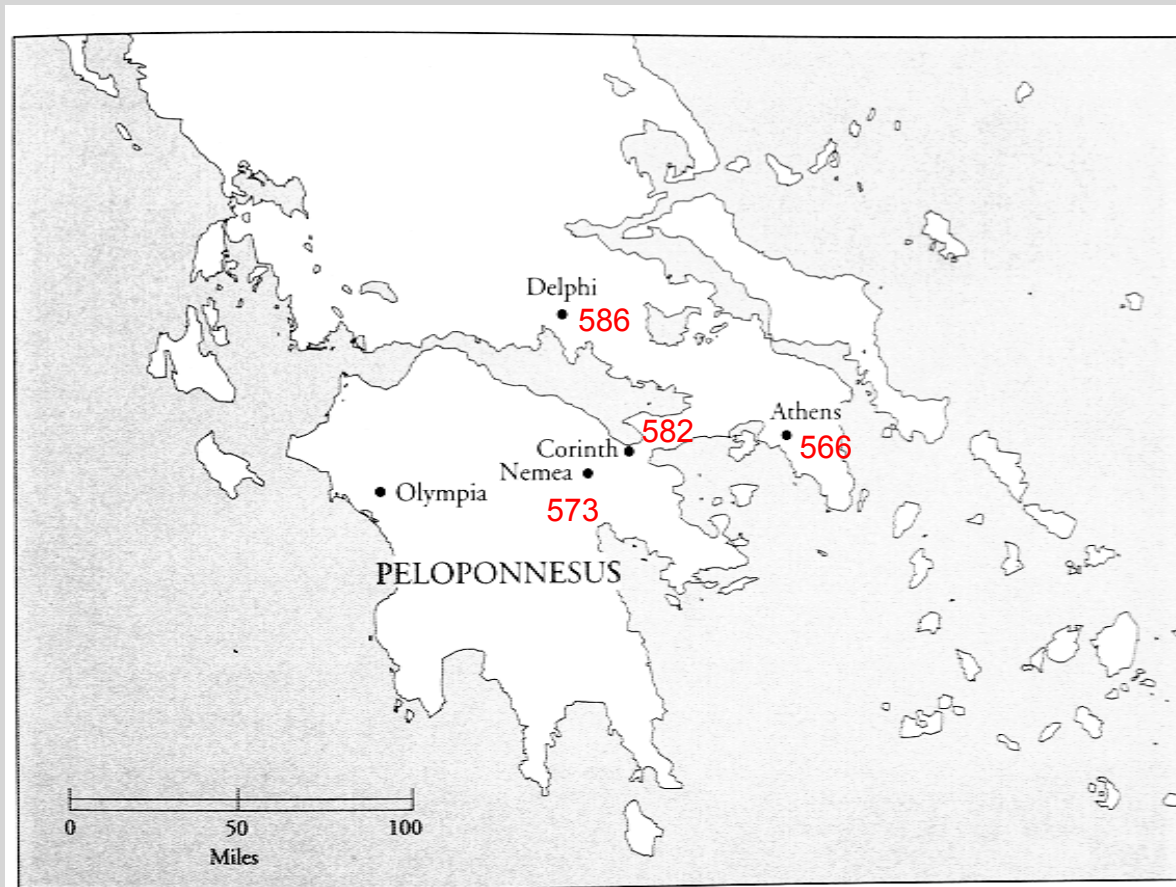
Festivals other than  
the Olympics:

The rise of the athletic  
*periodos*

# Greek colonies outside Greece that sent athletes to Olympia in the 5th century BC



# Sites of the major Greek Games



## Map 6

*Sites of major Greek games. The Olympics were held at Olympia; the Pythian Games at Delphi; the Isthmian Games near Corinth at Isthmia; and the Nemean Games at Nemea. Together, these four constituted the ancient "circuit" of Greek athletic festivals. The most important local games were held at Athens during the Pan-athenaic festival.*

# Start dates of the crown games

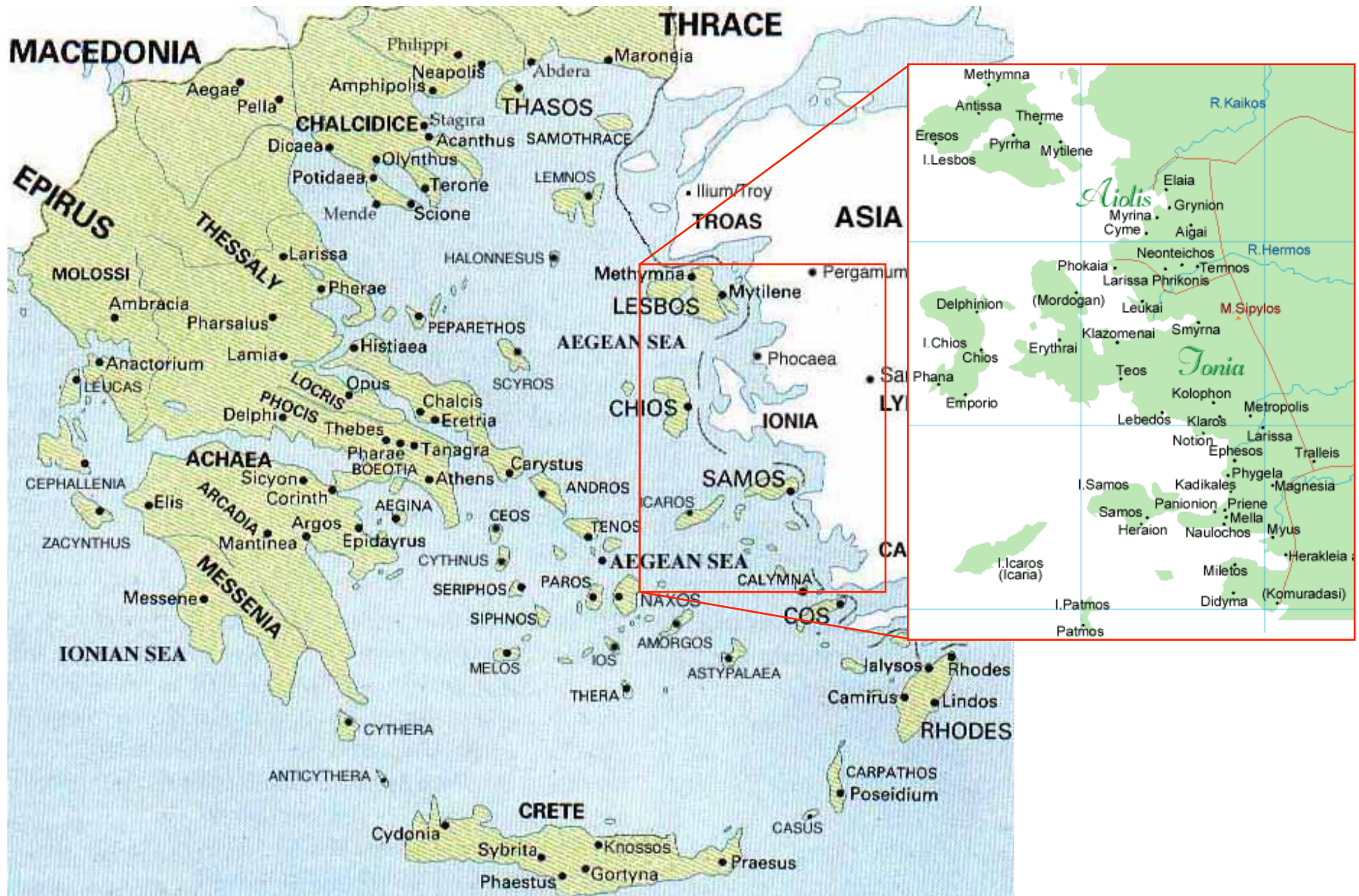
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- **Olympic** Games 776 BC
- **Pythian** Games 586 (?582) BC
- **Isthmian** Games 582 BC
- **Nemean** Games 573 BC
  
- **Panathenaic** Games at Athens 566 BC
  
- Another 20 or so festival games date from about this time

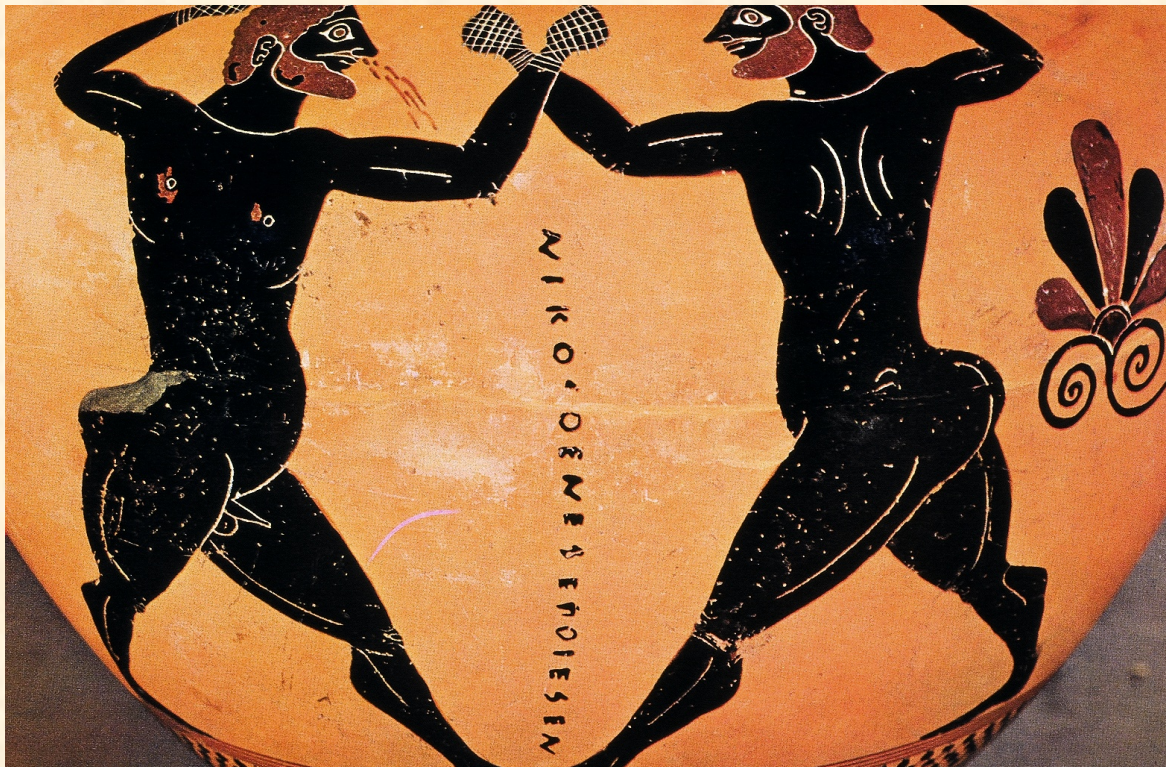
# Rise of baseball as a sport

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- no formal rules or clubs until 1845
  - by 1857 >20 organized teams
  - by 1864 some players begin to be paid
  - 1869: first wholly professional team
  - by 1870s, baseball becomes the American “national game”
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Political fragmentation of the Greek world of city-states



- Nikosthenes vase
- ca. 550-540 BC
- i.e., just 25 years after foundation of Nemean Games



- Sophilos vase  
ca. 580 BC
- Olympia?
- Athens?

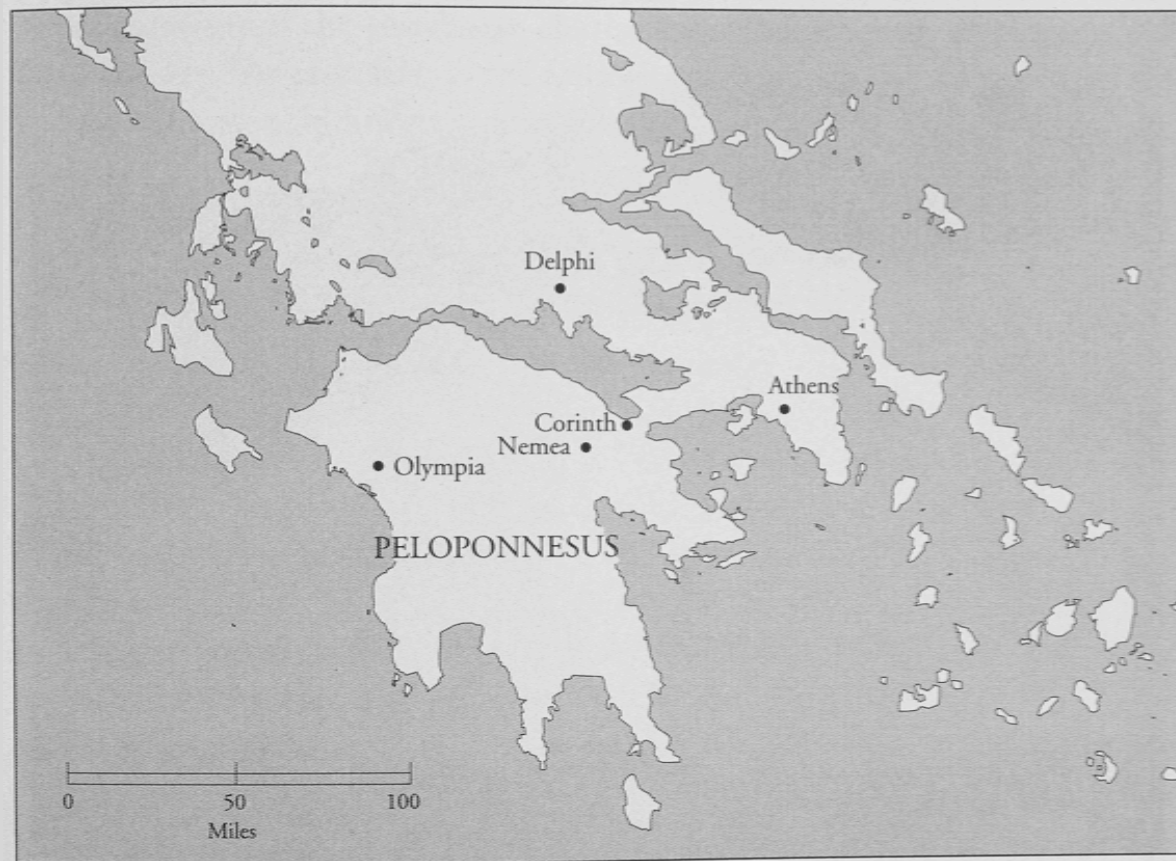


# Staggering of the Panhellenic Games

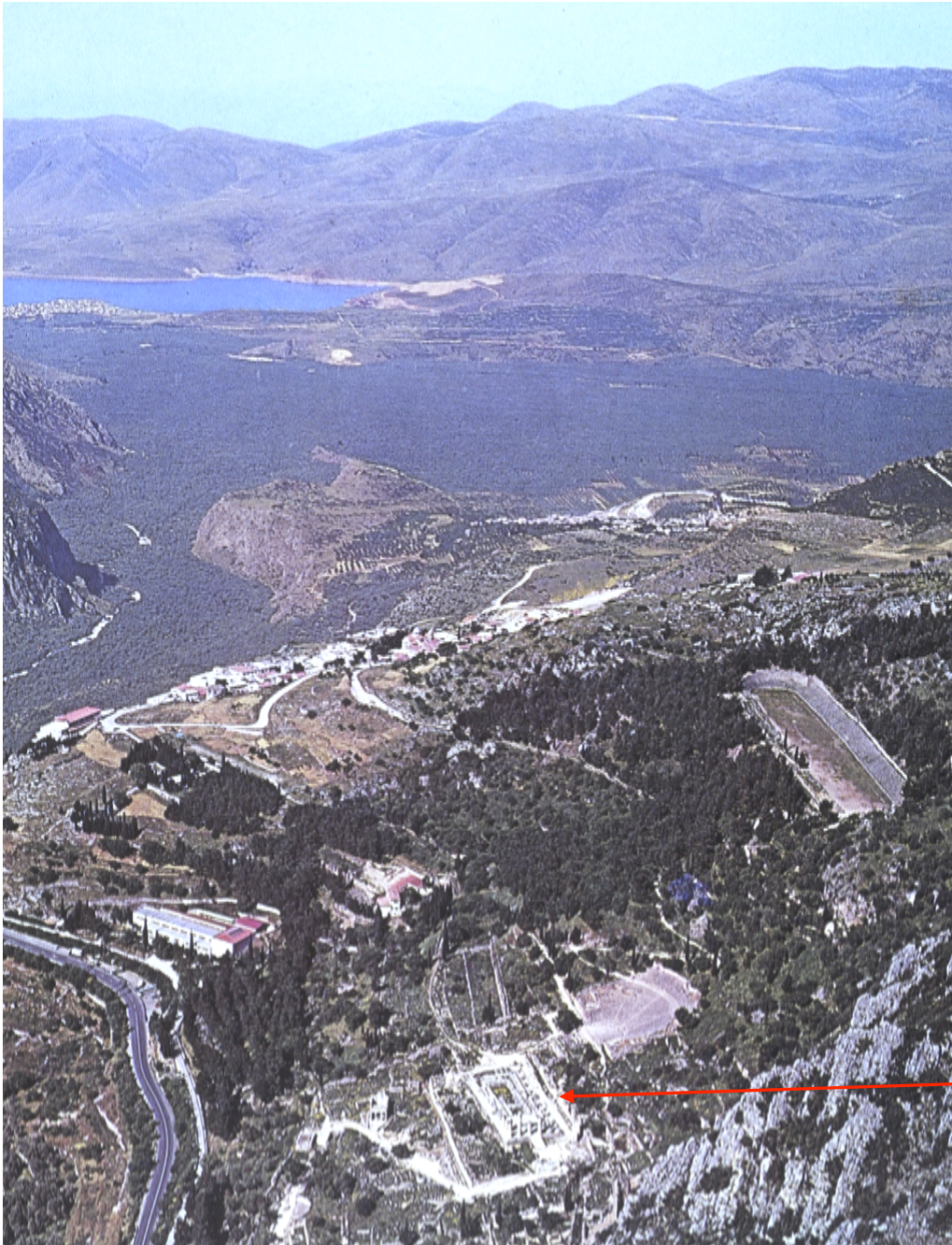
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- 476 Olympic Games, Isthmian Games
- 475 Nemean Games
- 474 Pythian Games, Isthmian Games
- 473 Nemean Games
- This 4-year cycle = the *periodos* (circuit)
- *periodonikes* = winner at all 4 crown games

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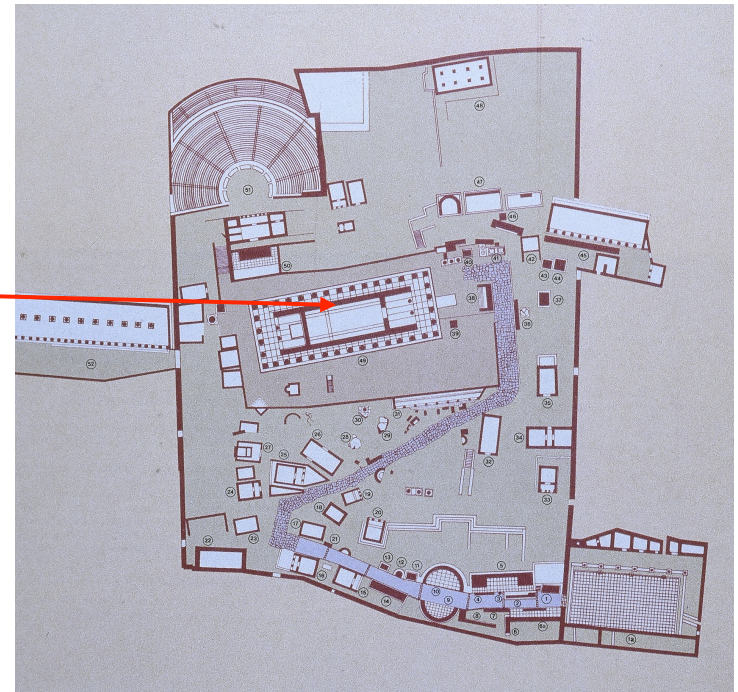
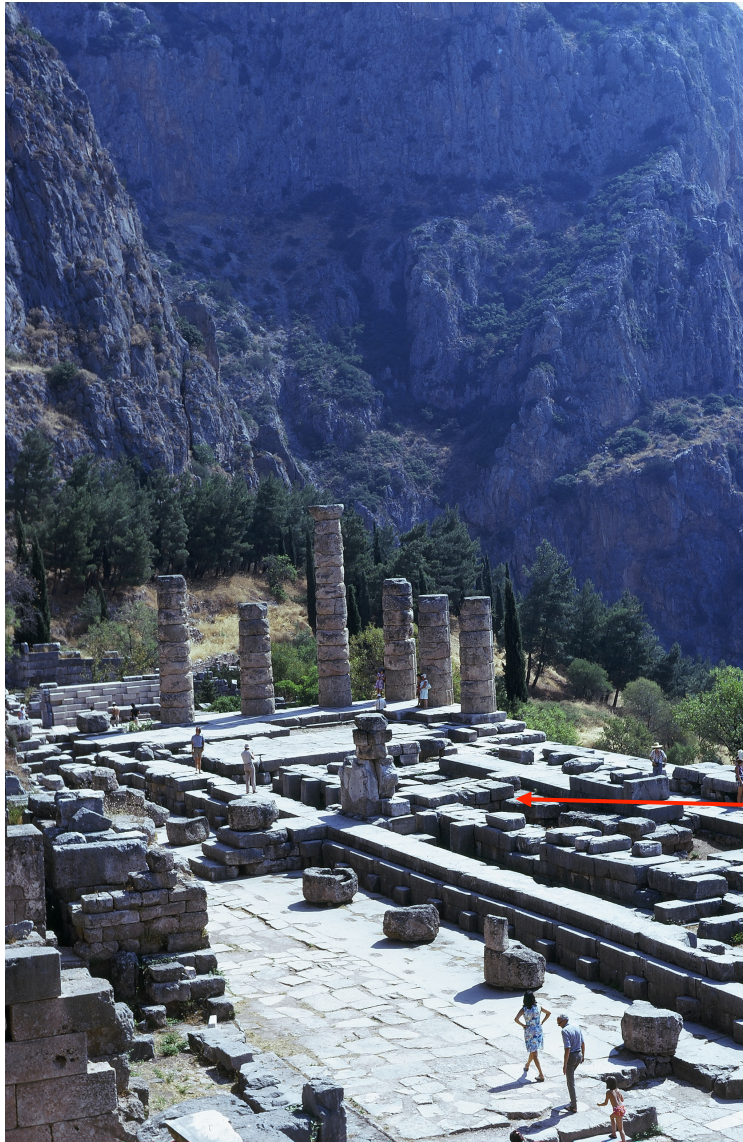
# Delphi

- Apollo
- Pytho (snake)
- Pythia (priestess)
- “delphic”

Temple of Apollo

# Delphi

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- Temple of Apollo at Delphi



## Poetry and Music at the Games

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Contests in:

- aulos-playing
- singing to the aulos
- singing with cithara

Religious hymns to  
Apollo and other gods

## Names of some other events

**Kitharodes** = singing with lyre accompaniment

**Aulos** = double-flute competition

**Aulodes** = singing with flute accompaniment

**Synoris** = 2-horse chariot race with 8 laps of hippodrome

**Tethrippon** = 4-horse chariot race with 12 laps of hippodrome

**Keles** = horseback race with 6 laps of hippodrome

## Poetry and Music at the Modern Olympics!

From 1912-1948: gold, silver, and bronze prizes were awarded for Drama, Epic, and other literary genres.

Also medals for Painting, Orchestral Music, Town Planning, Architecture

In 1912, Baron de Coubertin took the gold in the category “Literature: All Kinds”, with his *Ode to Sport*

“O Sport, pleasure of the gods, essence of life,  
You appeared suddenly in the midst of the gray clearing,  
Which writhes in the drudgery of modern existence...”

Etc. etc.