

Arts & Crafts Workshop:

Make an Olympic olive wreath

Duration: 30 minutes

Target group: Children aged 6–12 years

Material:

- Olive leaves (if possible; if not, green thick paper)
- String
- Glue
- Scissors for children and adults
- Coloured pencils, felt tips, permanent markers
- Paper foil (red and gold), coloured pipe cleaners
- A finished wreath to show
- Reference materials on winners at the Ancient Olympic Games.

Facilitators: 2–3

Overview

Participants create an olive wreath. This workshop gives rise to talking about how winners of the Ancient Olympic Games in Greece (Olympia) were celebrated: they were crowned with an olive wreath (“kotinos” in Greek).

Instructions

Prior to the workshop

- Familiarise yourself with the Ancient Olympic Games and the way winners were celebrated (see attached Activity Sheet ‘Winners’ Rewards’).

At the workshop

- Introduce the Ancient Olympic Games and explain that the winners of the events won an olive wreath (no gold-silver-bronze medals like today: only the athlete who came first won the prize).
- Show an example of a handmade olive wreath.
- Explain the procedure:
 1. Take some olive leaves (or cut them from the green paper).
 2. Make a hole in each leaf and push the string through it.
 3. If you want to give the wreath a more “contemporary” look, decorate it with foil or pipe cleaners.
 4. Wear the crown... and take a picture!



Young Olympic Day participant wearing an olive wreath