



Read the following passage about boxing and answer the questions below or on a separate piece of paper.

What is Boxing?

Boxing is a sport in which two people fight with their fists. A boxing competition is called a match, a fight, or a bout. To win matches, a boxer needs courage and skill. A boxer can win by knocking out the other boxer. A boxer can also win by scoring more points than his opponent.

The history of boxing

Fist-fighting contests date back to ancient times and probably much earlier. In ancient Greece boxers wrapped their hands and forearms in leather for protection. In ancient Rome fighters called gladiators wore leather hand coverings that were studded with bits of metal or metal spikes. Gladiators usually fought to the death. As Rome weakened, boxing became less popular.

Boxing again became a popular sport in England in the early 1700s. Boxers then fought without gloves. An English fighter named Jack Broughton put together the first set of boxing rules in 1743. In 1838 a new set of rules banned kicking, biting, head butting, and hitting below the waist. The rules were changed again in 1867. These rules required boxers to wear gloves.

During the 1900s most of boxing's heavyweight champions were from the United States. Jack Dempsey and Joe Louis were famous U.S. heavyweight champions in the first half of the 1900s. Later champions included Rocky Marciano, Muhammad Ali, and Joe Frazier. In the 21st century boxing became increasingly popular with women. They now participate in both amateur and professional matches.

Questions

1. Summarise what boxing is as a sport into one sentence.
2. Why do you think it was important for Jack Broughton to create boxing rules?
3. What are the differences between boxing in ancient times and modern times? Create a Venn diagram or table to show the differences and similarities between ancient and modern boxing?
4. If you have access to the internet, research one of the famous boxing champions found in the text and create a character profile for them. You can also select your own boxer if you wish (such as one from the Tokyo Olympics).
5. Create a timeline of the history of boxing based on the information found in the text. Ancient Greece is 700-480 B.C. and ancient Rome is 625 B.C. – 476 A.D.