

E C O Y A M O R S O R A N I S C
 P A N T R O C H U S T O F F E U
 L J P A T P H A B I I N P A T E
 O T I T L E I X L G L E A B O I
 P U F A E A N V I L E M L O N S
 E H A L A C S A G O S O M E E T
 N P N A D O T P A R A B L E S A
 T A P V I C T O R Y W R E A T H
 A T I N S K Y P A E N U A T O A
 T H P O C S E L Y P A L F P N I
 H L I B U T T O N S L E D I E R
 L I M O S A I C S I C D O N S P
 O V A T S L P E N C O R E N G I
 N I C J U N O C T I T A L Y A N
 I M E A N S L H A L T E R E S S
 A L R E S A N N O Y E S A Y P A

Find and circle as many of the fifteen words as you can that are shown in bold in the description. This kind of word puzzle, known as an acrostic, has been around for several thousand years. After you find all the words you can that relate to sports for boys and girls 2,000 years ago, make your own acrostic about experiences with sports or another topic.

Acrostic puzzle created by visual artist Angela Lorenz, 2022.

Sports Garb/led: The Case of Bikini-clad Pentathletes and Goals for Women from Ancient Rome to Title IX

2,000 years ago on three continents young women competed in the **PENTATHLON**, a series of five events based on the original Greek Olympics. We now know that Ancient Roman families gained status when their daughters competed in elite athletic competitions thanks to the research of archaeologists like Isabella Baldini Lippolis, who collaborated with visual artist Angela Lorenz on this art project.

The men's and women's pentathlon included a hoop race, known as **TROCHUS**, and the long jump, which required athletes to hold weights called **HALTERES** in their hands to propel themselves forward. In the 1950s, ancient **MOSAICS** from 300 CE were discovered on the island of **SICILY** in **ITALY** of women competing in, and receiving traditional prizes for, the pentathlon: a **PALM LEAF** awarded after the event and a **VICTORY WREATH** at a ceremony later. The women's games were dedicated to **JUNO** (originally known as Heres in Ancient Greece), and her symbol was the **PEACOCK**, the bird which pulled her heavenly chariot.

When the mosaic athletes were discovered, people didn't recognize the iconography of their ancient athletic equipment or their sportswear, called **SUBLIGAR**, which resembles what women track and field athletes and marathoners wear today. Coincidentally, bikini swimsuits were a new fashion at that time. Because the athletes were women, people named them the "bikini girls" and falsely assumed they were holding rattles and a tambourine instead of weights for long jump and a **DISCUS**.

News items abound regarding what athletes are told to wear or not wear when they compete. Artist Angela Lorenz recreated the ancient pentathletes out of **BUTTONS** and **HAIRPINS** because the women in the mosaics are famous for what they are wearing, not for what they are doing. Only the daughters of prestigious Roman families were allowed to compete, which mirrors the lack of access to elite sports today in communities around the world. Accordingly, the button mosaics are dedicated to the law **TITLE IX**, now celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2022. The remarkable success of US women athletes in the modern Olympic Games is often attributed to the passage of Title IX, which mandates that sports teams be equally funded for all athletes at schools receiving federal aid.

Solve the acrostic puzzle: on the previous page, find and circle as many as you can of the fifteen terms highlighted in bold in the text above.