

All about...

The Olympic Games

When did the Olympics begin?

Over two thousand seven hundred years ago the Olympics began as part of a religious festival in Olympia in ancient Greece.



Ancient Greek Games

The Greeks took part in the Olympic Games to celebrate the Greek gods Zeus and Hera. Only men and boys were allowed to take part in events such as wrestling, boxing, long jump, throwing the javelin and discus, and chariot racing. The games occurred every four years until the Greek Empire was defeated and they were forgotten about.

Modern Olympics

In 1894, the games were resurrected and the International Olympic Committee was formed. The Olympic Games have taken place every four years since, with athletes from all over the world taking part in different events.

Olympic Medals

Olympic medals are awarded to athletes who come 1st, 2nd or 3rd in their event. Gold is awarded to the winner who comes 1st, silver is awarded to 2nd place and bronze to 3rd place.

The Olympic Torch

A torch was lit outside of the Temple of Hera using flames created from rays from the Sun. Messengers took the torch around the country so that people knew about the games. Today the torch is lit as it was during the ancient Olympic Games. The flame travels around Greece and then to the country where the games will be taking place.

Olympic Rings

The symbol of the modern Olympic Games is five interlocking rings. The five rings are blue, yellow, black, green and red. The five rings represent the five continents, or parts of the world which took part in the first modern Olympic Games.

Paralympic Games

The Paralympic Games take place after the Olympic Games. Sportsmen and women who have a disability meet up and compete in different sports.

Questions about...

The Olympic Games

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. When did the Olympic Games begin?

2. Why did the ancient Greeks take part in the Olympic Games?

3. Who was allowed to take part in the ancient Greek Olympics?

4. How often do the Olympic Games take place?

5. If an athlete came second in an event which medal would they be awarded?

6. Why is the Olympic torch lit?

7. Where does the Olympic flame travel?

8. What is the symbol of the Olympic Games?

9. What do the five rings represent?

10. When do the Paralympic games take place?

Questions about...

The Olympic Games

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. When did the Olympic Games begin?

The Olympic Games began over 2700 years ago.

2. Why did the ancient Greeks take part in the Olympic Games?

The ancient Greeks took part in the Olympic Games to celebrate the Greek gods Zeus and Hera.

3. Who was allowed to take part in the ancient Greek Olympics?

Only men and boys were allowed to take part in the ancient Greek Olympics.

4. How often do the Olympic Games take place?

The Olympic Games take place every four years.

5. If an athlete came second in an event which medal would they be awarded?

If an athlete comes second in an event, they are awarded with the silver medal.

6. Why is the Olympic torch lit?

The Olympic torch is lit to let people know about the Olympic Games.

7. Where does the Olympic flame travel?

The Olympic flame travels around Greece and then to the country where the games will be taking place.

8. What is the symbol of the Olympic Games?

The symbol of the Olympic Games is a picture of five interlocking rings.

9. What do the five rings represent?

The five rings represent the five continents, or parts of the world which took part in the first modern Olympic Games.

10. When do the Paralympic games take place?

The Paralympic games take place after the Olympic Games.