

The modern Olympics

The modern Olympics are one of the biggest sporting events ever and people from all over the world come to compete in the games. There are summer and winter games that take place every four years

When and where were the modern Olympics first held?

Inspired by the ancient Olympics, Pierre De Coubertin founded the modern Olympics in Paris in 1894 and the first competition was held in Athens in 1896 in honour of the original games.

Who can take part in the games?

Each country decides for itself which sportsmen and women are allowed to take part.

Usually, athletes must qualify for their place on the team by winning or doing really well in other competitions before the Olympic Games. The people who are selected for the team must be a citizen of the country they will represent. There are also games for disabled sportspeople. The ancient Olympics only allowed men to take part and no one with disabilities was included.

What Sports are in the games?

There are now many sports played in the modern Olympics including, Archery, Basketball, Hockey and even Surfing! There were very few sports were in the ancient games and none of these were included but Boxing was in both the ancient and modern Olympics.

What were the original prizes?

The original prizes for the Olympic games in ancient Greece were palm branches, which were handed by the judges to the winners immediately after the event. Nowadays there are medal ceremonies that take place later. Winners are given medals for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place (gold, silver and bronze).

The Olympic games today are very different to the ancient games that inspired them and is now enjoyed by millions of people all over the world.

DID YOU KNOW?

The United States is the most successful team ever and has won 2,189 medals in the Summer games!

Norway has won the most medals in the winter games (263)