

Modern Olympics

The Olympic games are an organised sporting event planned every 4 years by the International Olympic Committee [IOC]. The modern games began in 1896, however they date back to the Greeks of Olympus around 776BC.

When and where

The first modern Olympic games were started by a French man who created the IOC called Pierre De Coubertin. The games were planned in Paris in 1896 and the first games were held only 2 years later. They have continued for 124 years now.

Who can take part

Athletes from all around the world can take part, from Jamaica to Great Britain to Japan. Competitors have to train for years sometimes, and compete against others from their own country to win a place on their team. As well as their fitness, confidence and strength the athletes must follow the Olympic rules and values.

What sports?

In the ancient Olympics swimming races took place in rivers or the seas and just 9 sports were active. Nowadays there are around 28 sports altogether such as running, long jump, javelin and swimming.

Did you know

At the 2004 games there were 301 events!

Prizes

For the winning Olympians there are gold, silver and bronze medals. In the ancient games the winner was awarded a silver medal and a

olive wreath. Modern wreaths have been made from laurel.

In 2020, coronavirus blocked the Olympic games from going ahead. We still don't know if it will be safe for the Olympics to take place in Tokyo in 2021. It will be another interesting year in the games history.