

Lovereading4kids.co.uk is a book website created for parents and children to make choosing books easy and fun

### extracts from Olympic Games Picture Book Written by Susan Meredith Illustrated by Galia Bernstein Published by

### **Usborne Publishing Ltd**

All Text is Copyright © of the Author and/or Illustrator

Please print off and read at your leisure.

# THE GAMES ARE REVIVED

Over the centuries, Olympia was buried by earthquakes and floods. But after archaeologists rediscovered it, there was a huge surge of interest in the ancient Games which led to the founding of the modern competition in 1896.

In 1875, the remains of temples, sculptures and pots were unearthed at a big archaeological dig at Olympia led by German archaeologist Ernst Curtius.

Cycle racing at

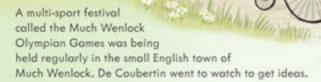
he Much Wenlock

Olympion Gomes of the 1870s

Inspired by the rediscovery of Olympia, French nobleman and keen sportsman Baron Pierre de Coubertin had the idea of reviving the Games.



Pierre de Coubertin

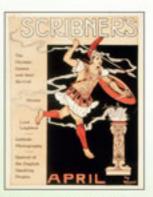


Finally, in 1894, he managed to form the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and organize the first modern Games, to be held in Athens. The IOC is still in charge of the Games today.



At this early meeting of the IOC, de Coubertin is second from the right.

De Coubertin used to say that the most important thing at the Games – and in life too – was not the winning but the taking part.



A magazine advertises the 1896 Games with an ancient Greek warrior. At Athens 1896, more than 200 male athletes from 14 countries competed in nine different sports: athletics, cycling, fencing, gymnastics, shooting, swimming, tennis, weightlifting and wrestling.



Swimming events weren't held in a pool, so competitors had to dive out of a boat and race through the cold, rough sea.



The start of the 100m race in 1896

The first Olympic champion since the ancient Games was an American called James Connolly. He spent almost all his savings on the 17-day boat journey to Europe, but won the hop, step and jump (now called the triple jump).

The Greek spectators were

well ahead of anyone else.

delighted when their entrant for

the marathon, a shepherd called

Spyridon Louis, stormed to victory

The marathon race was invented for the 1896 Games. It was inspired by a story about an ancient Greek soldier, Pheidippides, who ran about 40km (25 miles) from the town of Marathon to Athens, with the news that the Greeks had beaten the Persians in battle.



Jomes Connolly with the flag of the USA

The Greek king's sons, who were watching, were so excited that they jumped onto the track and ran with Spyridon to the finishing line.



Spyridon Louis wore Greek national dress at the medals ceremony,

## **(OMBAT SPORTS**

There are four hand-to-hand combat sports at the Games. Contestants fight in different groups, depending on their weight.

Wrestling has two disciplines. In Greco-Roman, dane by men only, contestants can only fight with their arms and upper body. In freestyle, they can use and grab the legs as well. Freestyle is done by men and women.

Greco-Roman gold medalist Jung Ji-Hyun of South Korea topples Roberto Monzón of Cuba in the 2004 final.

Judo developed

of hand-to-hand

combat dane by samurai warriors in ancient Japan. Japanese judokas (people who do judo) have won

most medals.

from jujitsu, a type

1.12



Ayumi Tanimata of Japan throws Lucie Décase of France on her way to a juda gold medal in 2008.

At the ancient Games, there were no weight divisions, so the heavier fighter usually had the advantage. Boxing at the Games only became open to women in 2012. Although punches to the head are allowed, from 2016 men will no longer wear helmets.



Nicola Adams of Great Britain became the first-ever female boxing gold medalist. Here she aims a punch at Ren Cancon of China.

> Taekwondo is an ancient Korean martial art whose trademark is its combination of kicking and punching. It became an Olympic sport in 2000,



## ON THE WATER

Rowing, sailing and canoeing are the Olympic boat sports, with canoeing split into two disciplines.

Canceing sprint events take place in flat water and competitors race straight for the finish. Canceing slalom is held in steep whitewater rapids, and they have to weave around poles.



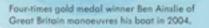
Slovakian twins Paval and Peter Hachscharner battle the rapids in cance slalar in 2012. They wan branze, but already had three previous golds.

Both canoeing sprint and canoeing slalam have separate events for canoes and kayaks. What's the difference?

Kayakers use double-bladed paddles and sit in their boats ...

> ... but conceists use singlebladed paddles and kneel on both knees in slalam, on one in sprint.

Rowing and sailing were on the Olympic programme as early as 1896 but had to be cancelled that year due to dangerously strong winds. Sailing races are grouped by size and weight of boats. In general, boats are being made smaller and lighter, which means it takes greater skill and athleticism to control them in the wind.



288

GBI

Rowing events are split into two types: sculls, where each rower has two oars, and sweep, where they only have one. Rowing events are the only ones done backwards, apart from backstroke swimming.



The Romanian women's team celebrate a gold in 2004. Elisabeta Lipa (fourth from left) has won more rowing medals than anyone else – five golds, two silver and one bronze.

18

# **FASTER, HIGHER, STRONGER**

Adopted by Pierre de Coubertin, 'Faster, higher, stronger' is one of the mottos of the Olympic Games. Here are some of the amazing records that have been achieved.

### SUMMER GAMES

Most medals (men): 22 Michael Phelps (USA) for equatics (swimming), 2004-2012. 18 of these were gold, which makes Phelps the gold medal record holder too.

Most medals (women): 18 Larisa Latynina (USSR) for gymnastics, 1956-1964. 9 of these were gold, which makes her the women's gold medal record holder as well.

Most gold medals at the same Games (men): 8 Michael Phelps (USA) for equatics (swimming), 2008

Most gold medals at the same Games (women): 6 Kristin Otto (German Democratic Republic) for equatics (swimming), 1988

Youngest known medalist: 10 years old Dimitrios Loundras (Greece) for gymnastics (team bronze in parallel bars), 1896

> In 1900 on unknown French boy acted as caxswain for a pair of Dutch rowers and they wan gold, Afterwards he disappeared but could have been as young as 7.

Youngest gold medalist in an individual events 13 years old Mariorie Gestring (USA) for aquatics (3m springboard diving), 1936

Oldest medalist: 72 years old Oscar Swahn (Sweden) for shooting (team silver in running deer double shots), 1920

Loriso 1972-2012 Latynina

Most Games participations: 10 Ian Millar (Canada) in equestrion,



Oscar Swahn

Biggest stadium: 110,000 seats Sydney, 2000

Most volunteers: hundreds of thousands Beijing, 2008

### WINTER GAMES

Most medals (men): 13 Ole Einar Bjørndalen (Norway) for biothlon, 1994-2014

Most medals (women): 10 each Raisa Smetanina (USSR) for skiing (cross-country), 1976-1992 Stefania Belmondo (Italy) for skiing (cross-country), 1992-2002 Marit Bjørgen (Norway) for skiing (cross-country), 2002-2014

Youngest medalist in an individual event: 14 years old Scott Allen (USA) for figure skoting (bronze), 1964

Youngest gold medalist in an individual event: 15 years old Tara Lipinski (USA) for figure skoting, 1998

Ole Einor Bjørndolen

Trischa Zorn

Roonhild

Myklebust

#### DADALYMDIC GAMES

Most medals (men): 21 Michael Edgson (Canada) including 18 golds, for visuallyimpaired swimming, 1984-1992

Most medals (women): 55 Trischa Zorn (USA) including 41 golds, for blind swimming, 1980-2004

Youngest Paralympian: 11 years old Natalia Partyka (Poland) limb deficient table tennis, 2000

#### PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES

Most medals (men): 22 Gerd Schoenfelder (Germany) including 16 golds, for amputee alpine skiing, 1992-2010

Most medals (women): 27 Roanhild Myklebust (Norway) one for every event she ever entered, including 22 golds, for sit-ski crosscountry skiing, ice sledge speed racing and biathlan, 1988-2002

#### GAMES DATES AND VENUES

Summer Games

- 1896 Athens, Greece 1900 Paris, France 1904 St Louis, USA
- 1908 London, Great Britain 1912 Stockholm, Sweden
- 1920 Antwerp, Belglum
- 1924 Paris, France
- 1928 Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 1932 Los Angeles, USA 1936 Berlin, Germony
- 1948 London, Great Britain
- 1952 Helsinki, Finland
- 1956 Melbourne, Australia 1960 Rome, Itoly
- 1964 Tokyo, Japan
- 1968 Mexico City, Mexico
- 1972 Munich, Federal Republic of Germany
- 1976 Montreal, Canada
- 1980 Moscow, USSR 1984 Los Angeles, USA
- 1988 Seoul, South Korea
- 1992 Barcelona, Spain 1996 Atlanta, USA
- 2000 Sydney, Australia
- 2004 Athens, Greece
- 2008 Seijing, China
- 2012 London, Great Britain 2016 Rio de Joneiro, Brazil
- 2020 Tokyo, Japan

Games were not held in 1916, 1940 and 1944 because of the World Wars,

#### Winter Games

- 1924 Chamonix, France 1928 St Moritz, Switzerland 1932 Loke Plocid, USA 1936 Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany 1948 St Moritz, Switzerland 1952 Oslo, Norway 1956 Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy 1960 Squaw Volley, USA In 2014 Russian cosmonouts took 1964 Innsbruck, Austria on Olympic torch 1968 Grenoble, France - unlit - for a 1972 Sappore, Japan spocework on its 1976 Innsbruck, Austria wary to Sochi 1980 Loke Plocid, USA 1984 Sarajeva, Yugoslavia 1988 Colgory, Conodo 1992 Albertville, France 1994 Lillehammer, Norway 1998 Nogano, Japan 2002 Solt Loke City, USA
- 2006 Turin, Italy 2010 Vancouver, Canada
- 2014 Sochi, Russian Federation
- 2018 Pyeongchang, South Korea 2022 Beijing, China





In 1956 equervier

held in Stockholm

becouse of strict

quarantine laws

in Australia.

manests hauf to he