

The History of the Olympics



This year, for the first time since the opening of the modern Olympic Games in 1896, the Olympics has been postponed. The competition was cancelled once during World War I and twice during World War II, but the 2020 Olympics are the first to be postponed. Rather than taking place this July, the athletes will have to wait until 2021 to compete.

In the news

It is not surprising that there were lots of news stories on the changes to the Olympic Games. Take a look at the news articles below to learn more about what has happened this year.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52001788>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52094532>

https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/news/watch_newsround

All of the above articles have been taken from the Newsround website but you should still check with an adult before going online.

Task 1: When did the Olympics begin?

Investigate the very first Olympic Games. It is up to you how you record your research. You may wish you use the questions below to guide your investigation.

- When and where did the first Olympic Games take place?
- Which events could athletes compete in?
- Who was able to compete in the games?
- Who was able to watch the Olympics?
- What did the winners receive?

Useful links:

- Take a look at *How did the Olympics begin?* There are some surprising facts! <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z87tn39/articles/z36j7ty#:~:text=The%20Olympic%20Games%20began%20over,gold%2C%20silver%20and%20bronze%20medals.>
- This page outlines key parts of the first Olympics: <https://www.historyforkids.net/ancient-greek-olympics.html#:~:text=Ancient%20Greek%20Olympics,the%20highest%20mountain%20in%20Greece.>

Task 2: Key moments in Olympic History.

After looking at the very first Olympics, I am sure you have noticed that many things have changed! These changes did not all happen at once. It has taken hundreds of years to get to the Olympics we have today and some think that there are still changes that need to be made. There have been many historical moments that have taken place at the Olympics that have been remembered for years to come.

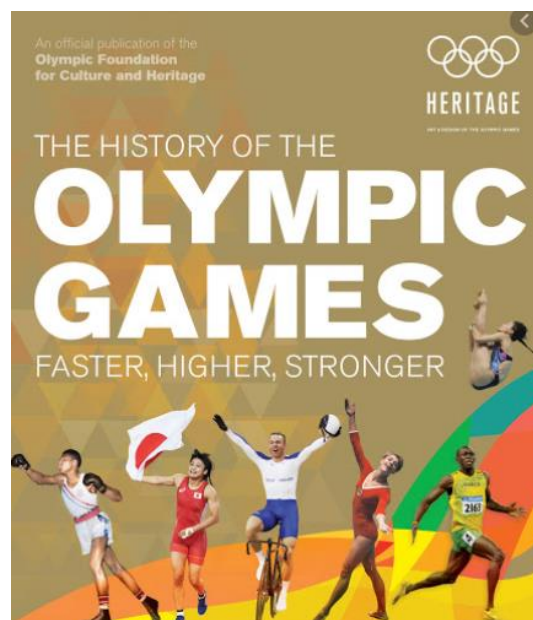
Create a timeline for the history of the Olympic Games. Include the dates of any key events or changes that you think should be remembered.

Useful links:

- This Newsround article highlights some memorable events from the Olympic and Paralympic Games history.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52021259>
- The history of the Olympic Games
<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/s/teaching-content/history-olympic-games/>
- You can access a page of facts on the Olympics without needing to log in to this website.
<https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/all-about-the-olympic-games>
- Use this Kiddle page to research areas of the Olympics that interest you
https://kids.kiddle.co/Olympic_Games

What do I need to include in a timeline?

- Your timeline must be in chronological order
- Include the dates and key information/summary of what happened on that date
- Relevant pictures/drawings can be included
- Events can be included above and below the timeline
- A ruler must be used



Challenge Task:

I'm sure that you have discovered lots of interesting facts about the Olympic Games and some significant moments in history. Which Olympic Games do you think were the most important? Do you think that there is one that should be remembered by everyone?

Create a fact page about your chosen Olympic Games that could be included into a History Text Book. Think about the key information people may need to understand why this Olympic was so important and interesting facts that you could include to engage your reader.

Some suggestions for historical events:

- The first Paralympics
- Women competing for the first time
- London Super Saturday