

Olympic and Paralympic Games

What do you know about the Olympic and Paralympic Games? Read the article to find out how the Games started and what happens nowadays.

Instructions

Do the preparation exercise first. Then read the article and do the other exercises.

Preparation

Match the definitions (a-i) with the vocabulary (1-9).

Vocabulary	Definition
1. ...d... multisport	a. a sport from ancient civilisations, where people raced in small vehicles pulled by horses
2. an athlete	b. an illness, injury or condition that makes it difficult for someone to do some things that other people do
3. to compete	c. a dark red-brown metal
4. a disability	d. involving several different sports
5. Ancient Greece	e. a thick stick that has fire at the top
6. chariot racing	f. a small metal disc that you get if you win a competition
7. a medal	g. someone who is very good at sports, especially one who does competitions
8. bronze	h. to take part in a race or competition
9. a torch	i. a European civilisation around Greece and the Mediterranean that existed from around 1200 to 323 BCE

Olympic and Paralympic Games

The Summer Olympic Games are the biggest multisport event in the world. More than 10,000 athletes from over 200 countries compete in more than 30 different sports! The Paralympic Games take place soon after the Olympic Games, and they're the biggest international event for athletes with disabilities. The Olympics and Paralympics usually take place every four years.

How did the Olympic Games start?

The Olympics started in a place called Olympia in 776 BCE and took place every four years in Ancient Greece, until about 393 CE. Women were not allowed to compete, and married women couldn't even watch the Games! Most of the men who took part were soldiers. They had running, jumping and throwing competitions, and also did boxing and chariot racing. The athletes wore no clothes at all when they were competing!

When did the Modern Olympic Games start?

The Modern Olympics started in Athens in 1896 and grew quickly. By 1924, in Paris, there were around 3,000 athletes, including more than 100 women, from more than 44 different countries. This was also the year that the first Winter Olympics were held. The Paralympic Games first took place in Rome, Italy, in 1960.

What do the athletes win?

The athletes who come first, second and third in a competition win medals. First place gets a gold medal, second place a silver medal, and third place a bronze medal. Athletes also win points for their country. The country with the most points at the end of the Games is the winner.

What are the Olympic rings?

The Olympic rings are the symbol of the games. The five linked rings are, from left to right, blue, yellow, black, green and red, and they are on a white background. They represent the five continents and the meeting of athletes from around the world.

What is the Olympic torch relay?

The flame is lit in Olympia several months before the Olympic Games. Lots of different people carry the torch and then pass it to the next person. They carry it around different places in Greece, and then they finally take it to the country that is hosting the event that year.

Where are the 2024 Olympic Games?

The 2024 Summer Olympics and Paralympics took place in France, mainly in Paris. There were 32 sports altogether – 28 main sports, plus four newer sports: skateboarding, sport climbing, surfing and breaking (breakdance). The Summer Paralympics had 22 different sports. Around 15 million people came to Paris for the Olympic Games, and billions more people watched the event on television. Did you watch the 2024 Olympic Games?

Tasks

Task 1

Circle true or false for these sentences.

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. The Summer Olympic Games are the world's biggest event where there are lots of different sports. | <input checked="" type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 2. The Paralympic Games happen a few weeks before the Olympic Games. | <input type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 3. Women weren't allowed to take part in the Ancient Olympic Games. | <input type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 4. In the Ancient Olympic Games, they did skateboarding, surfing and breakdancing. | <input type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 5. More than 100 women took part in the Paris Olympics in 1924. | <input type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 6. You win a bronze medal if you come first in a competition. | <input type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 7. The Olympic flame starts in Olympia, in Greece. | <input type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 8. Just one special runner carries the torch all around Greece and then around the host country. | <input type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |

Task 2

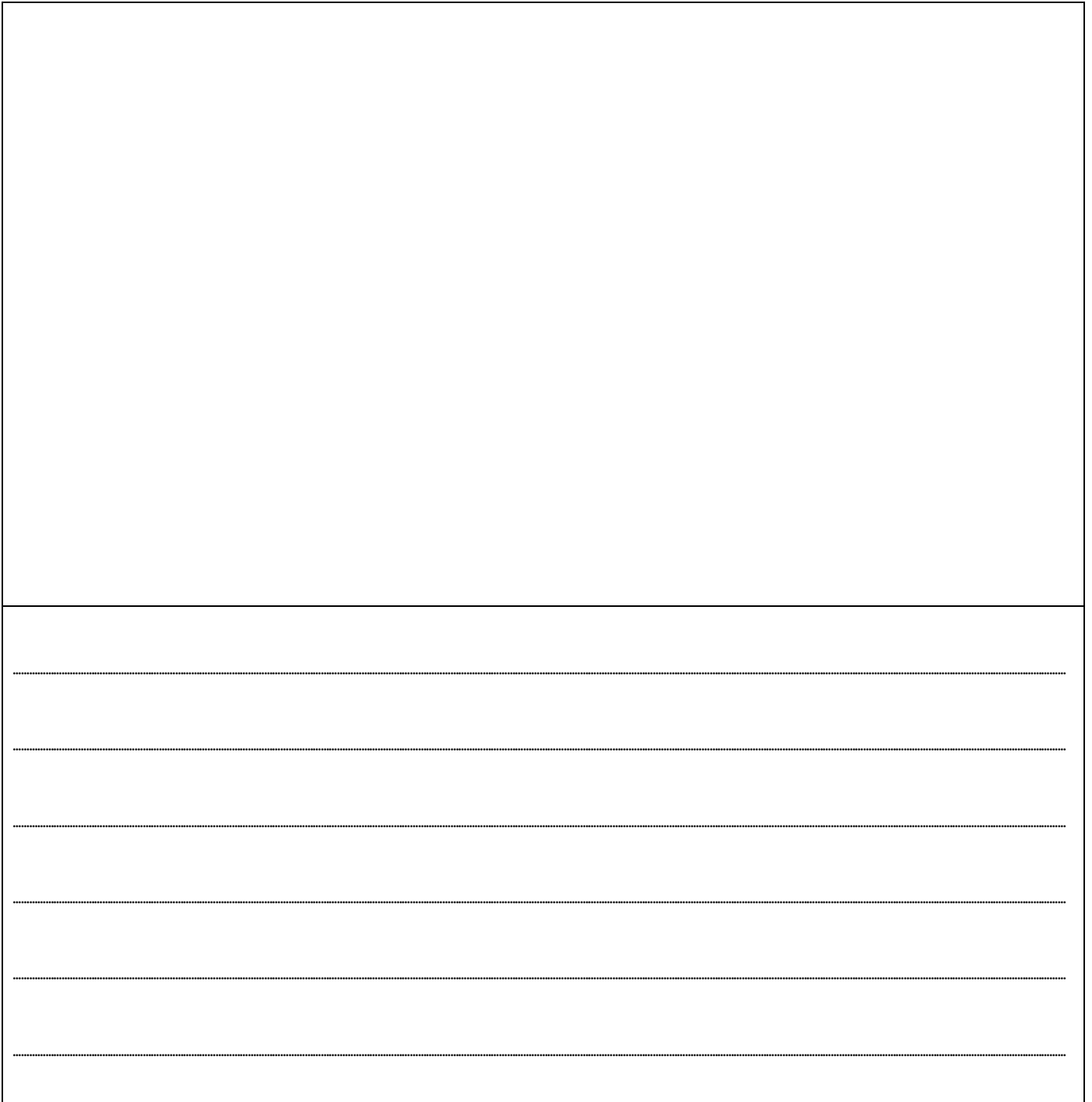
Complete the sentences with numbers or dates from the box.

15 million	four	1896	1960	32	776 BCE	10,000	five
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- More than10,000..... athletes compete in the Summer Olympic Games.
- The Olympic Games happen every years.
- The Olympics started in Ancient Greece in the year
- The Modern Olympic Games started in Athens in
- The first Paralympic Games were in Rome, in
- The linked Olympic rings represent the continents.
- There were different sports at the Paris Summer Olympics.
- Around people went to Paris to watch the Olympic Games.

Write and draw

Which sports do you like watching? Write about them and draw a picture.



Answers

Preparation task

1. d
2. g
3. h
4. b
5. i
6. a
7. f
8. c
9. e

Task 1

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. True
6. False
7. True
8. False

Task 2

1. 10,000
2. four
3. 776 BCE
4. 1896
5. 1960
6. five
7. 32
8. 15 million