

Modern Olympics

26

steps



At the end of the 19th century the French nobleman Pierre de Coubertin [ˈpjɛr də ˈkubɜːtən] got the idea to bring the Olympic Games back to life. With the help of the people who supported him he **organized** the first modern Olympic Games. So the Olympic Games returned to our life in 1896. They were a success. Athletes from thirteen countries came to Greece and had competitions in nine sports. Russia took part in them too. Now the number of countries taking part in the Olympic Games is much larger and so is the number of **athletic** events.

Like in ancient times, the Olympic Games take place every four years. In 1926 the tradition of the Winter Olympic Games also began. The noble idea of the Games is to make all people friends by meeting on football fields, **courts** and stadiums and to live in peace. The International Olympic **Committee** [kəˈmɪti] heads the Olympic movement. Among other **things** the Committee chooses the place for the coming Olympics. It is a great honour to become an Olympic city and in 2014 Sochi did. In 1980 Moscow joined the family of Olympic cities. The Olympic Games are probably the most important international sports event. Millions of people watch them all over the world. They support their Olympic teams and favourite athletes who fight **peaceful** battles in honour of sport. A lot of people enjoy the opening and closing **ceremonies** of the Olympics, colourful and **original**. Many things have changed but like in ancient times **winners** of the Olympics become national heroes in their countries.



Task 1. Read the title of the text and say what is it about?

Task 2. The text is about bringing the Olympic Games back to life.

TRUE FALSE

Task 3. Who organized the first modern Games?

a) Dmitri Mendeleev; b) Pierre de Coubertin; c) Juan Antonio Samaranch

Task 4. When did the Olympic Games return to our life?

a) 1896; b) 1905; c) 1870

Task 5. Write 5 questions to the text.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

Task 6. Express your opinion about what you have read, provide additional information that you know. Give examples.
