

The Olympics

An athlete's dream

Every four years, the best athletes from around the world compete in the Olympic Games. They train for years in hopes of being chosen to compete. They dream of winning medals and bringing _____ to their countries. The Summer and Winter Games each happen every four years, but they take place in different years. Because of this, Olympic Games happen every two years.

The Modern Olympics

The first Modern Olympic Games took place in _____. Greece was chosen to host the Games because Greece was the home of the Olympics. The _____ Olympics were Summer Games. _____ countries took part in _____ sports and _____ events. The first Winter Olympics were held in _____ in France, another country in Europe. _____ countries competed in _____ sports and _____ events.

Choosing a host city

Olympic athletes need a place to compete. The host city where the Olympics take place changes for each Olympic Games. Cities that hope to be chosen give their name to the International Olympic Commission. Being chosen as an Olympic host city is an exciting honor.

The Summer Games

Some of the most popular events in the Summer Olympics are water sports, such as _____ and _____. Divers try to dive into the water without making a big splash. They do flips and tricks on the way down. Swimmers race each other or perform artistic swimming with a team. This kind of swimming is like a dance in the water. Other popular events include _____, foot races, and _____. Some sports have come and gone from the Summer Olympics, like _____ and tug of war. They are not in the Olympics today because they were not very popular.

All the events from the first Summer Games are still part of the Olympics.

The Winter Games

The Winter Games have fewer events than the Summer Games. _____ is the most popular Winter Olympic sport. Figure skating is a graceful dance performed on ice. Figure skaters wear beautiful costumes. They may perform alone or in pairs. _____ and _____ are also popular at the Winter Games. Skiers and snowboarders may both perform special jumps and tricks. Other Winter events include speed skating, _____, and bobsledding. All the events from the first Winter Games are still part of the Olympics.

