

Lesson 6. Olympic Games 2012. Reading. Word Search

Find and write equivalents to the Russian collocations below the text.

History of the Olympic Games

The Olympic Games are an international sports festival that began in ancient Greece. The original Greek games took place every fourth year for several hundred years, until they were brought to an end in the early Christian era. The Olympic Games were renewed in 1896, and since then they have been staged every fourth year, except during World War I and World War II. Perhaps the main difference between the ancient and modern Olympics is that for the ancient Greeks the Games were a way of saluting [sə'lʊtɪŋ] their gods, when the modern Games are a manner of saluting the athletic talents of people of all nations. The original Olympics included competitions in music, oratory¹ and theatre performances as well. The modern Games haven't got them, but they represent a lot more sports than before. For two weeks and a half any international conflicts must be stopped and replaced with friendly competitions. This is the noble idea on which the modern Olympic movement is based.

The earliest record¹ of the Olympic Games goes back to 776 B.C., but historians think that the Games began well before then. The ancient Games were held in honour of Zeus [zjʊs], the most important god for ancient Greeks. According to the earliest records, only one athletic event was held in the ancient Olympics — a footrace of about 183 metres, or the length of the stadium. A cook, Coroibos [kə'rɔɪbəs] of Elis, was the first recorded winner. Only men were allowed to compete or watch the games. When the powerful, warlike Spartans began to compete, they changed the programme of the Games. The 18th Olympics already included wrestling [ˈreslɪŋ] and pentathlon [pen'tæθlən], and later Games — chariot [ˈtʃerɪət] races and other sports. The winners of the Games were highly praised and honoured for their results. In 394 A.D. the Games were officially ended by the Roman emperor Theodosius [θɪə'dɒsiəs], who felt that they had pagan² meaning.



Pierre de Coubertin [ˈpjɛr də ˈkubɜːtɪn], a young French nobleman, had an idea to bring the Olympic Games back to life. With the help of the people who supported him he managed to organize the first modern Olympic Games in 1896. Baron de Coubertin had planned to hold the Olympic Games in France, but the representatives from the nine countries that supported his idea decided that Greece was the right place to host³ the first Olympic Games. The nine countries were Belgium [ˈbɛlɟəm], Great Britain, France, Greece, Italy, Russia, Spain, Sweden [ˈswɪdn] and the United States. They agreed that every four years the Olympics would move to other great cities of the world.

The Athens [ˈæθɪnz] Games in 1896 were a success. Athletes from thirteen countries competed in nine sports. The second Olympiad was held in France in 1900. The 2004 Summer Olympics were held in Athens, Greece and hosted 201 countries. The USA took the first place. And Russia took the third place.

Beginning in 1924 Winter Olympics were included. They were held in the same year as the Summer Games, but starting in 1994, the Winter Games are held two years after the Summer Games. The Olympics are governed by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), situated in Lausanne [ləʊzæn], Switzerland.

1. поддержали его идею
2. олимпиады проводятся под руководством Международного олимпийского комитета
3. на которой основывается современное олимпийское движение
4. самое подходящее место для проведения первых Олимпийских игр
5. способ прославить спортивные таланты
6. борьба, пятиборье, гонки на колесницах
7. первые (впервые появившиеся) Олимпийские игры
8. вернуть Олимпийские игры к жизни
9. игры были возобновлены
10. воинственные спартанцы
11. в начале христианской эры (нашей эры)
12. в честь Зевса
13. способ чествовать своих богов
14. состязание в беге

Write what these people would do if they had a lot of money.

Example: *If Mr Collins had a lot of money, he would go on a journey.*

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| 1. Mr Collins | to go on a journey |
| 2. John Willis | to build a new hospital |
| 3. Richard Black | to help poor people |
| 4. Polly Wane | to spend it on science development |
| 5. Alexander Wilson | to try to improve ecology in the world |
| 6. Lucy Benson | to go to university |