

# OLYMPIC GAMES

## 1. Complete the table

KNOW	WANT TO KNOW	LEARNED

## 2. Learn the new words from the text below

banned	officially or legally stopped
pagan	a person holding religious beliefs other than those of the main world religions
purpose	the reason for which something is done or created
revive	restore to life or consciousness
currently	at the present time
introduce	bring (something, especially a product) into use for the first time
disabilities	a physical or mental condition that limits a person's movements or activities
propose	put forward (a plan or suggestion) for consideration by other
swift	moving with great speed
alternating	happening by turns

## 3. Read the text. How would you title it?

The Olympic Games is the greatest international sport event in the world, in which thousands of athletes compete in different types of sports. The Olympic idea means friendship, and cooperation among the people of the world.

The original Olympic Games began in ancient Greece in 776 B.C. These games were part of a festival in honour of God Zeus in the town called Olympia. Greeks held them every fourth year. It was a great athletic festival, including competitions in wrestling, foot racing, chariot racing, rowing and others.

The Olympic Games were very important for ancient world. In the period of Games all wars were stopped. During the Games there were arts festivals. Poets recited their poems; singers sang hymns - all this in honour of God Zeus and the Games.

Only men could take part in the Olympic Games. Greek women could not participate or watch the Games. But there were Games for women named Gerai (called after goddess Gera). The Olympic Games took place from the 8th century BC till the 4th century AD. In 394 AD the Roman Emperor Theodosius banned the Olympic Games because he decided that these competitions were pagan festival.

In the late 19th century, Baron Pierre de Coubertin decided to revive the Olympic Games. For this purpose, he founded the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1894, and two years later, in 1896 the modern summer Olympic Games took place in Athens.

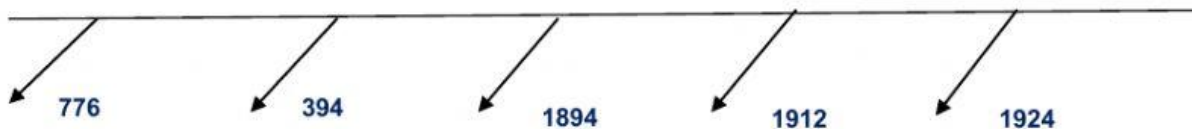
The Games are currently held every two years, with summer and winter Olympic Games alternating. The Olympic Movement changed during the 20th century. Nowadays there are Winter Games for ice and snow sports, the Paralympics for athletes with physical disabilities, and the Youth Olympic Games for teenage athletes.

The Olympic motto is "Cittus, Altius, Fortius", which is Latin for "Swifter, Higher, and Stronger". The motto was proposed by Pierre de Coubertin and was introduced in 1924 at the Olympic Games in Paris.

A more informal but well-known motto, also introduced by De Coubertin, is "The most important thing is not to win but take part!"

The symbol of the Olympic Games is five rings, colored blue, yellow, black, green, and red on a white field. This was originally designed in 1912 by Baron Pierre de Coubertin. These five rings represent the five continents of the world: America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia.

#### 4. Complete the time line with the information from the text



#### 5. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

1. The original Olympic Games began in ancient Rome.
2. Both men and women competed in the games.
3. Emperor Theodosius revived the Olympic Games.
4. The modern summer Olympic Games took place in 1894.
5. The summer and winter Olympic Games are currently held every four years.
6. The motto of the Olympics is "The most important thing is not to win"

#### 6. Make a mind map and tell us about the history of the Olympic Games.