

Make your case: *The Playground Olympic Games*

Imagine that your class has to organise *The Playground Olympic Games* where all the events are games and activities that primary school children play in the playground during lunch and break times like skipping, ball games and chasing games.

But exactly what events should you include to make an interesting and exciting multi-activity competition like the Olympics? You and your class mates need to decide!

Before you decide what sports you include, you need to make sure you brush up on your Olympics sports history! You won't be able to argue your case without knowing your stuff, but don't worry, everything you need to know can be found in this resource pack and in *First News' Olympic Special* (Issue 317).

RESOURCE OUTLINE

Here's what you'll find within this resource pack:

1. How the Olympics work...

An information page outlining the history of the Olympics and how sports get chosen and included within the Olympic programme every four years.

2. Olympic sports, disciplines and events... What's the difference?

What is the difference between a 'sport', a 'discipline' and an 'event'? What do they mean exactly? This information page explains everything you need to know.

3. Test your knowledge

Now that you've brushed up on your history and know how Olympic sports are chosen, test your knowledge with this quick quiz! Answers are included.

4. Timeline of Olympic sports/disciplines

When did your favourite sports become part of the Olympic Games? Which sports have come and gone? Find out with this simple timeline.

5. The Playground Olympic Games - teacher notes

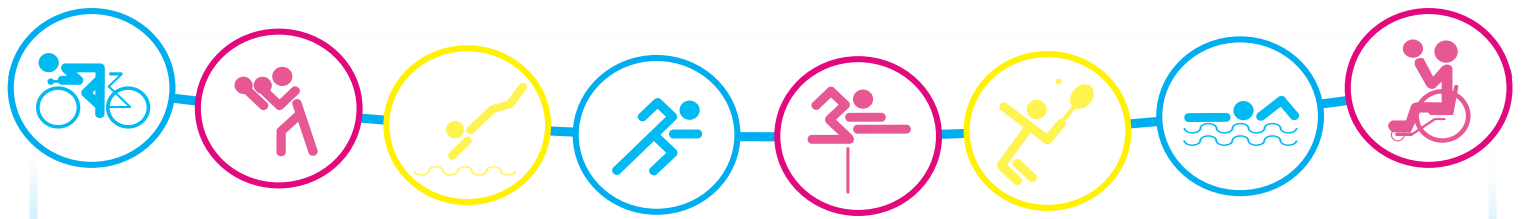
Teacher notes to accompany *The Playground Olympic Games* discussion activity.

6. The Playground Olympic Games

You're almost ready to make your case, but, just like in the real Olympics, any activity included in the *Playground Olympic Games* must promote the Olympic spirit. Learn the criteria with this information page.

7. The Playground Olympic Games Proposal Form

The task - your group needs to decide which activity it is going to propose to include in a *Playground Olympic Games* programme. Your group will then present its proposal to your class' *Playground Olympic Committee*, who will decide if it is a suitable activity.



How the Olympics work...

Despite the first Olympic Games dating back almost 3,000 years, the very first Modern Olympic Games took place not so long ago, in Athens, Greece, in April, 1896. Since then, they have been hosted in different nations, every four years. This year, the Olympic Games will be taking place in our own back garden (well... so to speak!) in London.

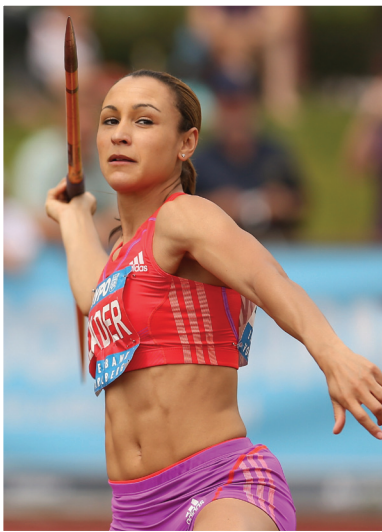


A total of nine sports were included within the very first games in 1896, with competitors from 14 different nations taking part. The nine sports were athletics, swimming, gymnastics, fencing, weightlifting, tennis, shooting, wrestling and cycling. Athletics and swimming are widely considered the most popular and to this day, when most people think about the Olympics, it's those two sports that come to mind!

Athletics, swimming, gymnastics and fencing are the only sports that have never not been included within the Olympic Games. All other sports have come and gone... some have even come back! The London 2012 Olympic Games will include a total of 26 sports.

Within each sport, there are often multiple events that are all part of the Olympics programme. For example, athletics includes events like the men's discus throw and the women's 100m. The International Olympics Committee (IOC) decide which sports are included within the Olympics - in other words, if someone wants to get a new sport into the Olympics, they've got to persuade the IOC! And even then, the IOC has to vote amongst themselves, so it's no easy task!

How does a sport get chosen?



How does the IOC decide? What persuades them to include a sport within the Olympics programme? Well, there are actually a few checkpoints that they have to make sure are ticked when assessing a new sport.

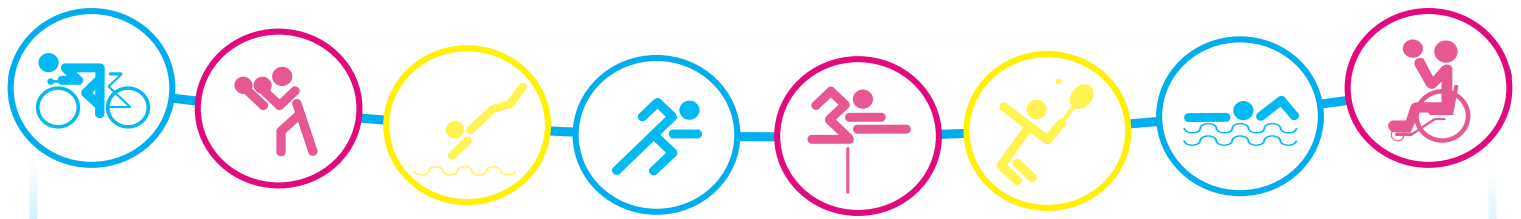
1. To start with, the sport must be 'widely practiced', in other words, it has to be pretty popular! Specifically, the sport must be practised by men, across four continents in 75 countries, or women, across three continents in 40 countries.

2. Is the sport accessible to both male and female athletics?

3. The sport cannot involve any type of mechanical propulsion. In other words, if it's got anything to do with a motor, it's not allowed! So aeroplane racing for example would be dismissed.

4. The sport also has to represent the Olympic ideals of excellence, respect and friendship. Does the sport push the athlete and demonstrate their skills? Is the sport fair? Does the sport encourage friendship and tolerance? It is commonly believed that sport is a great way of bringing different people together!

All in all, it takes a lot of persuasion to introduce a new sport into the Olympics!



Olympic sports, disciplines and events... What's the difference?

You'll find when you watch the Olympics this summer, or just talk to your friends and family about it, you'll hear the phrases 'sport', 'discipline' and 'event' mentioned every now and again! But what's the difference? What exactly do they mean?

Sport

Examples of Olympic sports include aquatics and athletics. A sport is a category which can be made up of several disciplines and is always demonstrated through various events. Every sport will play a part in the Olympics across various events, but not all sports are made up of specific disciplines.

Discipline

A sport can be made up of several disciplines. For example with the sport, aquatics, disciplines include diving, water polo, synchronised swimming and swimming. Here's a good way to remember it - Tom Daley practices the discipline of diving, which is an aquatic sport! But not all sports are made up of disciplines (they just aren't big enough!), a good example of this is table tennis.

Events

It's best to describe an event with an example, so here goes - the Women's Synchronised 3m Springboard. An event is a sport or discipline put into practice. An event showcases a certain discipline. So with the Women's Synchronised 3m Springboard, the discipline is diving, which is an aquatic sport. All sports will be demonstrated across certain events.



DISCIPLINE: Tom Daley practices the discipline of diving

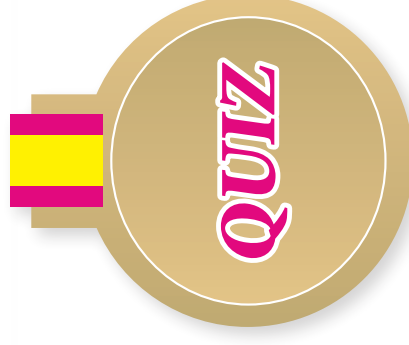


SPORT: Aquatics is made up of several water-based disciplines, like diving and swimming



EVENT: A discipline put into practice. The Women's Synchronised 3m Springboard Final event at the last Olympics in Beijing, 2008.

Test your knowledge...



Can you answer these questions on the Olympic Games. Use the information on the pages you've just read to help you.

- Q1** Friendship is one of the Olympic ideals. Name two others.
- Q2** Which discipline is Tom Daley best known for?
- Q3** How often do the Olympic Games take place?
- Q4** 15 different nations took part in the very first Olympic Games in 1896. True or False?
- Q5** Where did the very first Modern Olympic Games take place?
- Q6** Is gymnastics a sport, a discipline or an event?
- Q7** How many sports will be included in the London 2012 Olympic Games?
- Q8** How many sports were included within the very first Olympic Games in 1896?
- Q9** What does IOC stand for?
- Q10** What is Aquatics? A sport, a discipline or an event?
- Q11** Is the Women's Synchronized 3m Springboard final a sport, a discipline or an event?
- Q12** Why would the IOC never allow aeroplane racing on to the Olympic programme?
- Q13** Is athletics a sport, a discipline or an event?
- Q14** Is trampolining a sport, a discipline or an event?
- Q15** Which event are you looking forward to seeing most during London 2012?

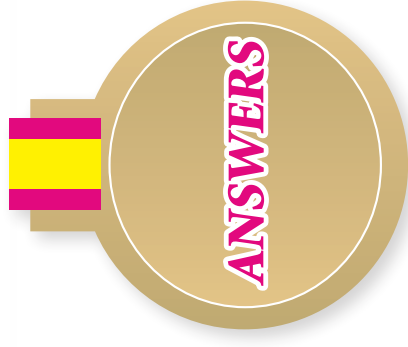
Q1	Q6	Q11
Q2	Q7	Q12
Q3	Q8	Q13
Q4	Q9	Q14
Q5	Q10	Q15

Name:

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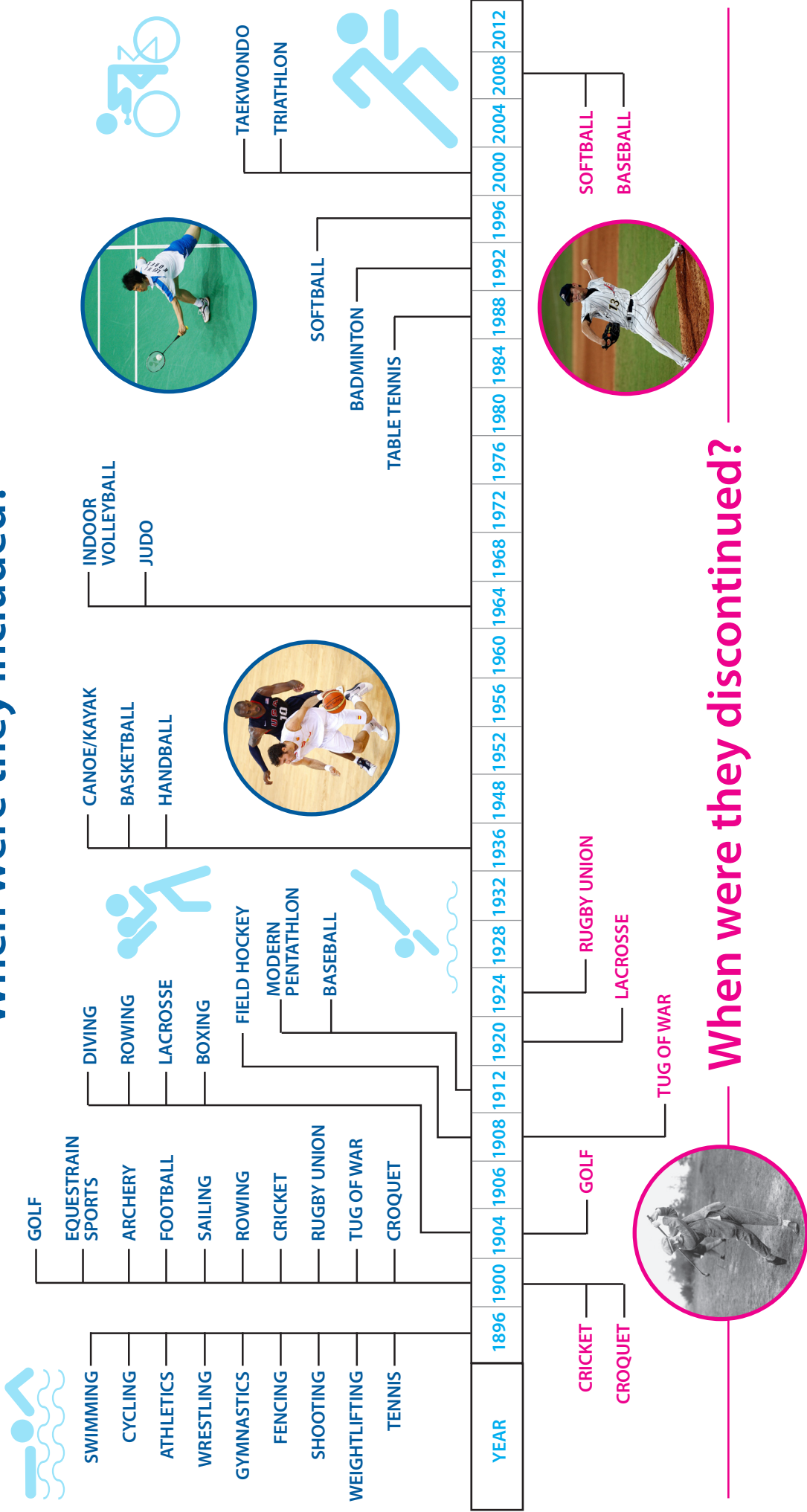


Q1 excellence and respect	Q6 a sport	Q11 an event
Q2 diving	Q7 26	Q12 because it involves mechanical propulsion
Q3 every four years	Q8 nine	Q13 a sport
Q4 false	Q9 International Olympics Committee	Q14 a discipline
Q5 Athens, Greece	Q10 a sport	Q15 n/a

Name:

Timeline of Olympic sports/disciplines

When were they included?



When were they discontinued?

Planning The Playground Olympic Games Discussion Activity - teacher notes

In this activity, pupils have to plan for an imaginary Playground Olympic Games where all the events are games and activities children play in the playground during lunch and break times like skipping, ball games and chasing games.

Each group will propose an activity to put to the Playground Olympic Committee (this could be a group of children or the whole class) who will vote to decide whether or not to include it in the programme.

a) Introduce the idea of a Playground Olympic Games using the information sheet provided.

Discuss the following points:

- What activities that they play could be turned into a Playground Olympic Game?
- How could each activity be turned into events in a competition? E.g. Skipping could have forward skipping and backwards skipping events. Football could be broken down into football skills events such as step-overs, drag backs etc. And would you need separate events for different age groups?
- How would the winners for each event to be decided? Remind the children that in some real Olympic Events, like diving and gymnastics, judges decide the winning performances.
- Remind the children about how sports are chosen for the real Olympics, and explain that any activities included in a Playground Olympics would also need to fit the Olympic ideals. i.e. be popular and not need special equipment, so that lots of children can play them and no one is excluded, and promote excellence, friendship and respect.

b) Prepare presentation for Olympic Playground Committee

Children work in groups. They choose a playground activity they think will be suitable for the Playground Games. They discuss and note down reasons that prove how this activity promotes the Olympic ideals, and how they think the events could be organised.

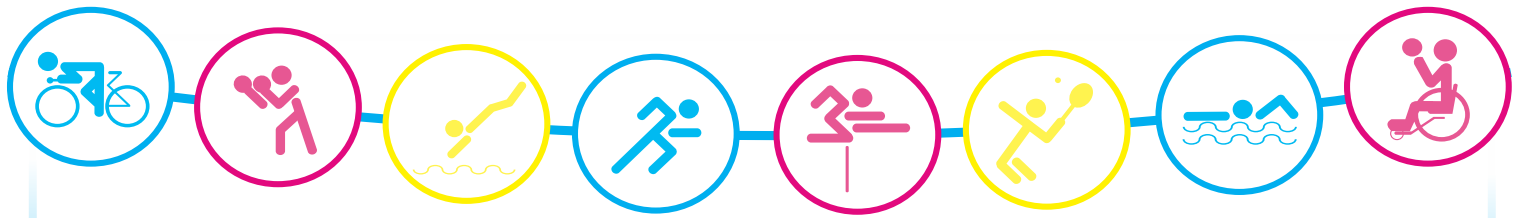
c) Presentations to the Olympic Playground Committee

Each group present their ideas and reasons for their proposal to the Olympic Committee. The committee could be a group of children or the whole class. The committee can ask the group further questions about how the activity supports the Olympic ideals. It is up to the proposing group to be as persuasive as possible! The committee then votes to see if the activity is to be added to the programme.

d) Plenary Discussion Questions

There will probably not be time in the few remaining days of the summer term for pupils to host their own Playground Olympic Games. However, can the children think of ways that they could promote the Olympic spirit in their playtime and lunchtime activities?

(If you do have a Playground Olympic Games, don't forget to take photographs, write a school news report and send them into *First News*!)



The Playground Olympic Games

Imagine that your class has to organise *The Playground Olympic Games* where all the events are games and activities that primary school children play in the playground during lunch and break times like skipping, ball games and chasing games.

But exactly what events should you include to make an interesting and exciting multi-activity competition like the Olympics? You and your class mates need to decide.

skipping football skills tag juggling climbing dodge ball
French skipping basketball skills it dancing
giant playground games

OLYMPIC SPIRIT

Just like in the real Olympics, any activity included in the Playground Olympic Games would need to promote the Olympic spirit. You will need to give reasons why a chosen activity fits in to the following criteria:

Popularity

To be a suitable activity it will need to be popular with both boys and girls, and with all different age groups in your school.

Equipment

Like the real Olympics, nothing with a motor is allowed. For the Playground Olympics, it is also important that any equipment that is needed is available for anyone to join in with this activity. So it probably shouldn't include anything that you would need to bring in from home. However, you may have equipment in your school's playground, like a climbing wall, that you could use.

Excellence

Olympic sports encourage people to try their very best and improve their performance. Excellence is not just about winning but taking part and working to achieve the healthy combination of a strong body, mind and determination. Think about what skills children practise and improve in different playground activities.

Friendship

The Olympic movement want to promote friendship and understanding between people through sport, such as making new friends with team-mates and with opponents. How do the different activities played at playtime help children from different classes and different age groups get to know each other?

Respect

Respect is a very important Olympic ideal. Activities in a Playground Games will need to encourage children to look after themselves, each other, follow the rules of the game, play fairly and look after the environment where the activity is taking place.

Playground Olympic Games Proposal Form

Your tasks:

- 1) Your group needs to decide which activity it is going to propose to include in a Playground Olympic Games programme.
- 2) You then need to make a list of the different ways it promotes each of the Olympic criteria.
- 3) You need to think how the activity could be organised in a school playground.
- 4) Your group will then present proposal to your class' Playground Olympic Committee who will decide if it is a suitable activity.

We are proposing _____ as a Playground Olympic Activity.

OLYMPIC CRITERIA:	OUR REASONS WHY THIS ACTIVITY IS SUITABLE:
 <p><i>Is it</i> POPULAR?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Who plays this game?● How could you encourage more children to enjoy playing this game and increase its popularity?	
 <p><i>What</i> EQUIPMENT <i>is needed?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Remember that any equipment needed must be easily available at school.	
 <p><i>Does it</i> <i>encourage</i> EXCELLENCE?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● What different skills do you improve as you play this game and try to get better at it?	

Playground Olympic Games Proposal Form (Page 2)

OLYMPIC CRITERIA:	OUR REASONS WHY THIS ACTIVITY IS SUITABLE:
 <p>How does it encourage FRIENDSHIP?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Do people make new friends through this activity? 	
 <p>How does it encourage RESPECT?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Is this activity played fairly? 	

ORGANISING YOUR ACTIVITY FOR THE PLAYGROUND OLYMPIC GAMES	
<p>The Competition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How would the events for this activity be organised? E.g. For skipping you could have forward skipping and backward skipping as separate events. How can all classes in the school be included? 	
<p>The Winners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How would the winners be decided for each event? Remember, in some Olympic events, like diving, competitors are given scores by judges. 	

Practice your presentation

- Decide who will present each section and take it in turns to practice so you are confident when presenting to your Olympic committee
- Try to think of questions that someone who doesn't want to include this activity might ask and decide how you would answer them so you are ready for any difficult questions!