Sport and athletics were a very important part of Ancient Greek culture. Many local competitions were held and there were also four large events. These were the Olympic, Pythian, Isthmian and Nemean Games and they were collectively called the Panhellenic Games.

The most important event was the Olympic Games which was held every four years in Olympia. Messengers would travel all around Greece announcing when the Games would be held and inviting people to attend. Any wars between city-states had to be stopped so that people could travel safely.
A messenger called Pheidippides ran from Sparta to Athens to announce news of the Greek victory against the Persians at Marathon.

The Roman Emperor Theodosius I banned the Olympic Games and all other ‘pagan’ events.

The last regular Olympics Games took place in Ancient Greece.
Athletics consists of running, jumping and throwing events, which can be divided into track and field events. Track events include sprints, middle-distance and long-distance running (e.g. relay races, hurdling and the steeplechase). Field events include jumping (e.g. long jump, triple jump, high jump and pole vaulting) and throwing competitions (e.g. shot put, discus, javelin and hammer throwing).
4,924 medals will be awarded at the Rio Olympics.

London is the only city to host the Olympic Games three times.

The Ancient Olympic games were held for over a thousand years until the Roman emperor Theodosius banned them.

As part of the opening ceremony for the London 2012 Olympics, the Queen and James Bond jumped out of a helicopter and parachuted into the stadium!
The International Olympic Committee are planning to change the number of rings in the Olympic logo. However, they can't decide the new order of the colours on the rings. **Can you find all of the different combinations of colours?** (You can only use each colour once in each design)
Population
Brazil is the largest country in South America and it is the fifth largest country in the world.

Brazil is so large that it covers three different time zones!

Cities
The capital of Brazil is Brasília. Other major cities include Rio de Janeiro, Salvador and Sao Paulo (which has a population of 11 million).

Economy
Brazilian’s currency is the Brazilian Real. The country is dependent on logging, mining and fishing.

Geography
The climate of Brazil is tropical and large parts of the Amazon Rainforest can be found there. It is home to many species, including armadillos, tapirs, jaguars and pumas.

Landmarks
One of the most famous landmarks in Brazil is the statue of Christ the Redeemer. Other landmarks include the Iguazu Falls and Sugarloaf Mountain.

Sport
The Olympic Games is being held in Rio de Janeiro from 5th to 21st August 2016. This will be the first Olympic games to be held in South America.

One of the most popular sports in Brazil is football and the Brazilian team has won the World Cup five times.

Language
The main language in Brazil is Portuguese because the country was originally claimed by Portugal in 1500.

Food and drink
The most famous dish in Brazil is a bean stew called feijoada (which is made from pork and rice). A popular drink, called Guarana, is made from small red berries.
Ambassador
A person who represents their country and a set of values.

Amateur
A person who takes part in a particular activity because they enjoy it rather than as a profession to earn money.

Anthem
A specific song which is used to represent a country.

Apparatus
Special equipment used by athletes.

Athlete
A person who has trained to be good at a particular sport or physical activity.

Attendance
A group of people present at an event.

Balance
The ability to remain upright and steady.

Banned
Something that is not allowed to be used, or somebody who is not allowed to compete.

Broadcaster
A person or organisation that shows an event or program on the television.

Butterfly stroke
A swimming stroke which uses both arms moving together with a dolphin kick.

Champion
A person who has beaten all other rivals in a sporting event.

Championship
A sporting contest to decide who is the best competitor in an event or game.

Coach
An expert who trains athletes so they can perform and compete to their best ability.

Compete
To take part in a contest.

Competition
An event or contest that people take part in to find out who is the best.

Contestant
A person who takes part in a competition.

Coordination
The ability to use different parts of the body together to complete an activity.

Dismount
To get off a horse or a bicycle.

Disqualify
When someone is removed from the competition.

Endurance
The strength to carry on doing something difficult without giving up.

Energy
The physical and mental strength needed to take part in an activity.

Equestrian
Events that relate to horses.

Event
A sporting competition.

Freestyle
A sporting event that does not have many restrictions on the way in which competitors move or the techniques they use.

Gala
A sporting meeting that usually refers to a swimming competition.

Guidelines
A set of rules that athletes should adhere to.

Gymnasium
A building or room that has special equipment that gymnasts can use.

Gymnast
A person trained to compete in gymnastics using bars, beams, the floor and vaulting horses to perform different moves and routines.

Halftime
Midway through a competition.

Host
To receive visitors and entertain them.

Host country
The country where the Olympic Games are taking place.

Humanity
To show kindness and consideration towards somebody or something.

Individual
A single person.

Injury
When the body is hurt or damaged.

Marathon
A long distance race that lasts 26 miles.

Mascot
A character or object that represents a person, country or organisation.

Medal
A gold, silver or bronze award that is given to the winners and runners up.
The First Modern Olympics

The return of the ______________ Olympic Games was started by Pierre de Coubertin. Coubertin met a man called William Penny Brookes, who had been trying to revive the Olympics and held the first British Olympian ______________ in 1850.

Coubertin was inspired to bring back the Olympic Games and he set up the International Olympic Committee in ______________. He hoped that athletic competition would encourage ______________ around the world. Coubertin also believed that taking part was more important than winning.

Coubertin’s work led to the first modern Olympics being opened on 6th April 1896 in ______________. The event was held at the Panathenaic Stadium. This is the only stadium that is built of ______________ and it is one of the ______________ in the world.

The first modern Olympic Games had forty-three events and nine ______________ (including track and field events, swimming, gymnastics and ______________). Fourteen nations took part and the Panathenaic Stadium was packed full of 100,000 spectators.

The highlight of the games was the marathon which was won by a Greek man called Spyridon Louis. He wore ______________ that had been donated by his fellow villagers and he won the race by more than seven minutes. Overall, Greece won the most ______________.

The first modern Olympic Games closed with a special ______________ on 15th April 1896 and the event did not return to Greece until 2004.

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The Olympic record for the men’s long jump was set in 1968. How many years ago was this?

The time in London is four hours ahead of Rio. If it is 8:05am in London, what is the time in Rio?

At the 2012 Olympics, China won 38 gold medals, 28 silver medals and 22 bronze medals. How many medals did they win altogether?

204 countries took part in the 2012 Olympics. 85 of them won at least one medal. How many of them did not win a medal?
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Mark and Helen

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