UNIT: OLYMPIC GAMES

INTRODUCTION

The Olympic Games, which originated in ancient Greece as many as 3,000 years ago, were revived in the late 19th century and have become the world's preeminent sporting competition. From the 8th century B.C. to the 4th century A.D., the Games were held every four years in Olympia, located in the western Peloponnese peninsula, in honour of the god Zeus. The first modern Olympics took place in 1896 in Athens, and featured 280 participants from 13 nations, competing in 43 events. Since 1994, the summer and winter Olympic Games have been held separately and have alternated every two years.

THE OLYMPICS IN ANCIENT GREECE

The first written records of the ancient Olympic Games date to 776 B.C., when a cook named Coroebus won the only event—a 192-meter footrace called the stade (the origin of the modern “stadium”)—to become the first Olympic champion. However, it is generally believed that the Games had been going on for many years by that time. Legend has it that Heracles (the Roman Hercules), son of Zeus and the mortal woman Alcmene, founded the Games, which by the end of the 6th century B.C. had become the most famous of all Greek sporting festivals. The ancient Olympics were held every four years between August 6 and September 19 during a religious festival honouring Zeus. The Games were named for their location at Olympia, a sacred site located near the western coast of the Peloponnese peninsula in southern Greece. Their influence was so great that ancient historians began to measure time by the four-year increments in between Olympic Games, which were known as Olympiads.
The Olympic Games of antiquity were repeated every 4 years, during the days of the Olympics, the different "polis" (cities) were considered a neutral state and established a sacred truce that prevented any kind of war and to participate Meet certain requirements:

1. Being a legitimate child
2. Being free men
3. Be in possession of all civil rights
4. Document your participation in the preliminary training sessions at Elis

The main sporting events were:

**Runs:** stadium (distance of about 197 m, which equals the length of the track); "Diaulo" (travel twice the stadium, in the direction of round trip); "Dólico" (24-stage course); Career of the Hoplitas (with all the military equipment) and relay race (with torches).
Jumping: long jump

Launches: javelin throw and disc launch.

Fight: the Pancracio where practically all blows, dislocations, keys, etc. were allowed.

Pugilato: with many similarities to the current boxing.

Combined trials: five pentathlon tests (stadium, long jump, discus throw, javelin and pugilate).

Quad race.

Greece began to decline as a world power in the third century BC. C. and it arose Rome, that absorbed it in century II a. C. little by little the spirit of the fans and the religious atmosphere of the past were lost.

The Games were decaying until the Christian Emperor of Rome, Theodosius I the Great abolished them completely in the year 394 AD.
THE OLYMPIC GAMES IN THE MODERN ERA

The Olympic Games of the Modern Era were promoted on the initiative of Baron Pierre de Coubertin and began to be created on November 25, 1892 at the Sorbonne of Paris where, through a series of conferences, he asked his peers to universalize the sport and reborn The spirit of the Ancient Games, under the motto Citius, altius, fortius (Faster, higher, stronger).

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) thus emerged and on June 23, 1894, its first congress was held, with the attendance of 15 representatives. This was formally proclaimed the renewal of the Olympic Games.

In them could participate the best athletes of all the countries belonging to the sports organizations that were adhered to the IOC. Participants should demonstrate that they only performed their sport by hobby.

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (IOC) AND SPANISH OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (COE)

IOC was created on 23 June 1894 by Baron Pierre de Coubertain in Paris in order to revive the ancient Greek Olympic Games.

The main functions of the IOC are:

- Coordinates the activities of the Olympic Movement.
- Supervise and administer everything concerning the Olympic Games.
- Administer all rights associated with Olympic symbols, flag, anthem, motto, oath and games.
- Control the rights of transmission of games, advertising and other activities according to the Olympic Charter.
- Responsible for organizing and selecting the cities that will host the Olympic Games every 4 years.

The Spanish Olympic Committee is a private association, governed by its own statutes and regulations, in accordance with the principles and rules of the International Olympic Committee, which is the body responsible for overseeing and supervising its activities.

The Spanish Olympic Committee was created in 1912, according to the International Olympic Committee itself.

In its more than 100 years of existence, the Spanish Olympic Committee has undergone numerous changes, according to historical evolution, highlighting sporting and organizational successes in its recent past, and always contributing to the promotion and dissemination of Olympic ideals.
OLYMPIC SYMBOLS

The Olympic flame is a symbol rescued from the Olympic Games of antiquity. At that time they maintained throughout the time of competition a sacred flame shining on the altar of Zeus.

The flame is lit in Olympia, the former Olympic venue in Greece, by the natural rays of the sun reflected in a curved mirror.

The ceremony is carried out by women dressed in robes, to remember those times. Once the flame is lit, the fire is passed to a torch that is delivered to the first relay runner. By means of relays the flame is transported to the Olympic city.

The Olympic Oath was written by the Baron de Coubertin himself. It makes it an athlete of the games host nation while holding a corner of the Olympic flag.

"On behalf of all the competitors, I promise that I will take part in these Olympic Games, respecting and complying with the rules that govern them, in a true spirit of sportsmanship, for the glory of the sport and the honour of our teams."

The Olympic flag has a white background with no borders. In the center there are five hoops that form two rows, with three up and two down. The top row hoops are left to right blue, black, and red. The bottom rings are yellow, and green. The hoops symbolize the five continents: Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and America.

The Olympic Motto. The Baron de Coubertin borrowed the motto "Citius, Altius, Fortius", is a Latin phrase meaning "faster, higher, stronger".

The Olympic credo "The essential thing is not to win, but to participate" "The most important thing of the Olympic Games is not to win but to compete, As well as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the fight. The essential thing is not to have won but to have fought well"
There are currently 28 sports, including 39 disciplines. A discipline is a branch of a sport that comprises one or more tests. For a sport to be Olympic in the male category it has to be practiced in at least 75 countries on four continents, and in the female category in at least 40 nations and on three continents.
OLYMPIC WINTER SPORTS

- Alpine Skiing
- Biathlon
- Bobsleigh
- Cross-Country Skiing
- Curling
- Figure Skating
- Freestyle – Aerials
- Freestyle – Halfpipe
- Freestyle – Moguls
- Freestyle – Slopestyle
- Freestyle – Ski Cross
- Ice Hockey
- Luge
- Nordic Combined
- Short Track Speed Skating
- Skeleton
- Ski Jumping
- Snowboard – Cross
- Snowboard – Halfpipe
- Snowboard – Parallel Giant Slalom
- Snowboard – Slopestyle
- Speed Skating
GROUP WORK (maximum two people)

Perform a PowerPoint or Prezy (only images) AN OLYMPIC GAMES HOST CITY (Barcelona 92, Los Angeles 84 ...)

- The PowerPoint or Prezy should include:
- Most important images of those Olympic Games.
- Most popular sports.
- Historical introduction.
- Classification in the medal
- Participating countries ...

The powerpoint will be exposed in class explaining the exposed images. (5 minutes)