



Pictures: iStock/vladors/Oskana Morar

OLYMPICS SPECIAL

ARE you enjoying the Olympic Games in Tokyo?

We are, so much so that we decided we had to produce a special edition of *The Wonder Weekly* devoted to the Olympics and its history.

When people talk about the Olympics they generally mean the modern Olympics; the first of which was held in Athens, Greece, in 1896.

That might not sound that modern, but the original Olympics was an Ancient Greek festival which celebrated Zeus, the Greek God of sky and weather.

In fact, the Ancient Olympic

Games were actually just part of a four event festival called the Panhellenic Games.

The Pythian Games, Nemean Games and Isthmian Games were the other events.

The first of these Olympics was held in 776 BC, almost 3000 years ago.

To compete in the Olympics you had to be a free man (not a slave) who spoke Greek.

The first 13 Olympics had only one event, a running race the length of stadium, which was about 190 metres.

In 776 BC the winner was a cook and baker named Coreobus, and he received an

olive branch for his efforts.

There were no medals at the Ancient Olympics, but winners were treated like heroes in their home cities and towns.

At the 14th Olympics the Greeks added a second event - a running race over a distance of about 400 metres around the stadium.

Eventually though other events were added, such as wrestling, boxing, chariot racing, other running races and the pentathlon.

The pentathlon combined long jump, discus, javelin, wrestling and a stadion race.

Ancient Greek sportsman

competed in the nude.

Nudity was a bit of a Greek tradition.

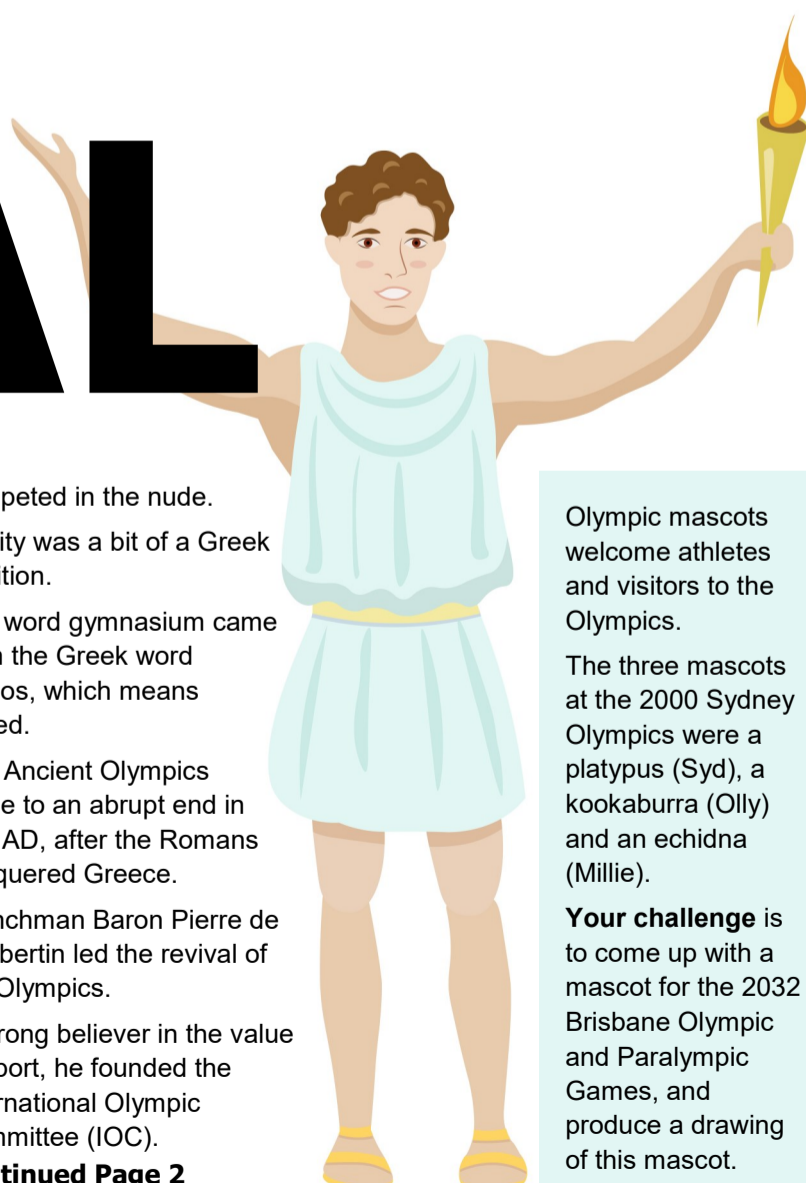
The word gymnasium came from the Greek word gymnos, which means naked.

The Ancient Olympics came to an abrupt end in 393 AD, after the Romans conquered Greece.

Frenchman Baron Pierre de Coubertin led the revival of the Olympics.

A strong believer in the value of sport, he founded the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Continued Page 2



Olympic mascots welcome athletes and visitors to the Olympics.

The three mascots at the 2000 Sydney Olympics were a platypus (Syd), a kookaburra (Ollie) and an echidna (Millie).

Your challenge is to come up with a mascot for the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games, and produce a drawing of this mascot.

Let the Games begin

From Page 1

Baron Pierre de Coubertin also designed the Olympic rings, and won a gold medal himself - for literature at the 1912 Olympics for his poem *Ode to Sport*, which he entered under a pseudonym (not his real name).

That's right - literature.

There was a time when painters, sculptors, architects, writers and musicians competed at the Olympics.

The IOC chose Athens for the first Summer Olympics in 1896, and 14 countries took part.

The main venue was the

Anyway, other than during the First and Second World Wars, the Summer Olympics has been held every four years since.

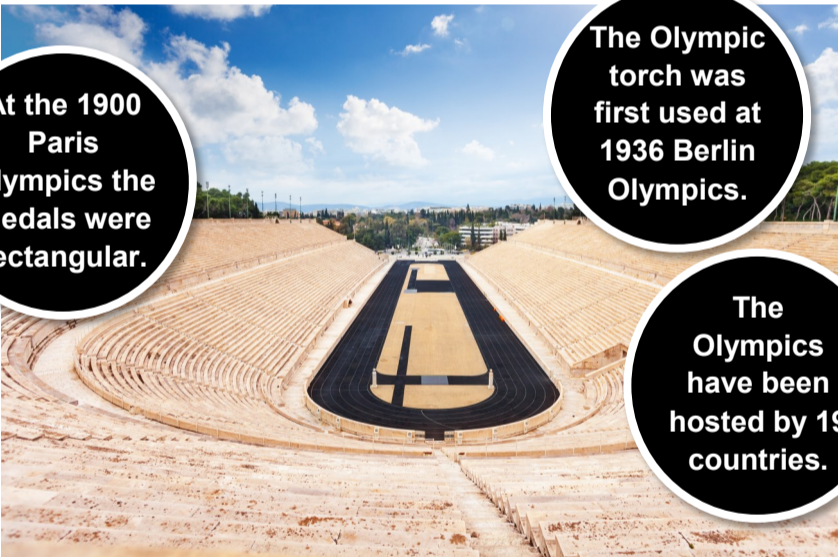
Although COVID-19 caused the 2020 Games to be delayed to this year.

The Olympics has made its way to Australia twice, and will be hosted by Brisbane in 2032.

Challenge yourself by making a list of the Olympic host cities (see below), and research the countries where these cities are located (e.g. Sydney, *Australia*).

Present your findings in a creative way (perhaps by using

Australia has competed at every modern Games.



At the 1900 Paris Olympics the medals were rectangular.

The Olympic torch was first used at 1936 Berlin Olympics.

The Olympics have been hosted by 19 countries.

HISTORIC: The Panathenaic Stadium in Athens. Picture: iStock/ SerrNovik

Panathenaic Stadium, the only stadium in the world built entirely of marble, and it was filled to the brim by the largest crowds to ever attend a sporting event.

Most of the athletes were from Greece, and there was only one Australian at the Games, Edwin Flack.

Flack won two running events, the 800 metres and 1500 metres.

He was leading the marathon well into the race, before collapsing with exhaustion. Flack also competed in tennis, and was awarded a bronze medal despite not winning a single match.

the map of the world provided on page 3).

Did you know tug-of-war, motor boat racing and dueling pistols were once Olympic sports?

Is there a sport you think should be introduced at the Brisbane Olympics, or earlier?

Another **challenge** might be to write a letter to send to the IOC explaining why this sport should be included in the Olympics.

Children's University Tasmania members can earn stamps in their passports for any of the challenges, at the discretion of their school coordinator.



At least one Olympic ring colour is in every national flag.

GOLD: Ariarne Titmus now has four Olympic medals to go with her world title. Picture: iStock/ Pierell

The WONDER WEEKLY FREE COPY

Published by the Peter Underwood Centre June 29, 2020

Study the long jump to set a record: Page 2

Spot the difference puzzle: Page 2

Science helps swim ace to strike gold

SPRINT science is helping Tasmanian swimming star Ariarne Titmus achieve her goals. The 20-year-old from Launceston, who won two gold medals at the World Championships in South Korea last year, said: "I have worked particularly closely with biomechanical and my technique and this has been able to improve my performance." Sport biomechanics is the study of how all parts of the body work together to produce movement. Ariarne says biomechanical tests use video footage of her swimming strokes, which is then watched back in slow motion. "We slow it right down so I can watch it and have a good look at my stroke and figure out what I can do to make me faster," she said.

Our world champ's inspiring message:

REACH FOR THE STARS

TASMANIA'S world champion swimmer Ariarne Titmus encourages young people to reach for their dreams in life. "I am so blessed to be able to do something I love the most every day," Ariarne told *The Wonder Weekly*. "Although I work hard, I never stop dreaming 'my way'." Ariarne said following her success last year she has been busy, but the rewards were well worth the effort.

"Education perhaps more than anything else is a passport to a better life." - Peter Underwood AC.

WHEN Tasmanian swimming star Ariarne Titmus spoke to *The Wonder Weekly* in June last year, she had her sights set on winning a gold medal the Tokyo Olympics.

She had to wait another year, when the Olympics were postponed due to COVID-19.

But last week in Tokyo she won not just one gold, but two, by taking out the 200m and 400m freestyle events.

She also claimed a silver medal in the 800m freestyle, and a bronze in the 4X200m freestyle relay.

It is an amazing achievement, and a reward for a lot of hard work.

But as Ariarne told *The Wonder Weekly*, you don't have to be a world class athlete to benefit from the fun and good health of sport and exercise.

"I think sport and exercise is a great way to help set you up for life," she said.

1900 Paris	1924 Paris	1952 Helsinki	1972 Munich	1992 Barcelona	2012 London
1904 St Louis	1928 Amsterdam	1956 Melbourne	1976 Montreal	1996 Atlanta	2016 Rio de Janeiro
1908 London	1932 Los Angeles	1960 Rome	1980 Moscow	2000 Sydney	2020 Tokyo*
1912 Stockholm	1936 Berlin	1964 Tokyo	1984 Los Angeles	2004 Athens	
1920 Antwerp	1948 London	1968 Mexico	1988 Seoul	2008 Beijing	*Postponed until 2021.

