

Olympics: Then and Now

Week 8 • Thursday • How the Games Changed

Reading Time

The ancient Olympics lasted over 1,000 years, then stopped. But in **1896**, a Frenchman named Pierre de Coubertin brought them back to life! The first modern games were held in Athens, Greece — the perfect place to restart them.

Some things stayed the same: the games still happen every four years, athletes still train hard, and the world still cheers for champions. The Olympic flame is even lit at ancient Olympia and carried by runners to each new host city!

But much has changed. Today, athletes from more than 200 countries compete — men AND women (in ancient times, married women could not even watch!). Winners get gold, silver, and bronze medals instead of olive crowns. And there are winter games too, with skiing and skating — sports the ancient Greeks never dreamed of!

Reading Questions

1. When and where did the modern Olympics begin?

2. Where is the Olympic flame lit?

3. Name two things that changed from ancient to modern games.

Then, Now, or Both?

Write THEN for ancient games, NOW for modern games, or BOTH.

Statement	THEN, NOW, or BOTH?
Held every four years	
Winners get an olive-leaf crown	
Women compete in events	
Held at Olympia to honor Zeus	
Athletes train hard to win	
Gold, silver, and bronze medals	

Fill in the Blanks

1896 Athens flame medals four

- The modern Olympics began in the year _____.
- The first modern games were held in _____.
- The Olympic _____ is lit at ancient Olympia.
- Winners today receive gold, silver, and bronze _____.
- The games happen every _____ years.

Show What You Think

1. If you could add ONE new sport to the Olympics, what would it be? Why?

2. Why do you think people wanted to bring the Olympics back after 1,000 years?

Draw It!

Draw yourself competing in your favorite Olympic sport — ancient or modern!

Review

I learned...	Circle one
How the modern games began	YES / NOT YET
What changed and what stayed the same	YES / NOT YET