

The Olympic Games

Most kids play sports with their friends in the neighborhood or at school. Can you imagine playing a sport with kids from around the world? Athletes in the Olympic Games get to do just that!

The Olympic Games are a series of sports games. The Olympics are one of the oldest sports events in history. Athletes played in the Olympics 3,000 years ago. The games are still played today.

The First Olympic Games

The first Olympic Games were in ancient Greece. The first Olympics had only one event, a race for runners. A few years later, athletes competed at wrestling, long jump, and boxing. The games were played every four years.

The first games were very different than the ones today. Athletes played without clothes! Winners did not get medals. They won jugs of olive oil. The ancient Greeks prized olive oil. They used it for cooking and grooming their hair and skin.

The Olympics were held for hundreds of years. Then in 400 A.D. they stopped. The Romans had taken over Greece. They ended the games. They did not like athletes playing without clothes.

The Olympics Come Back

For more than a thousand years, there were no Olympics. But some people wanted to bring the games back. They wanted athletes from different countries to play against each other.

In 1896, the Olympic Games came back. The games were played in Athens, Greece, with athletes from around the world. Many of the sports in the first games were played. Some new sports were added. Some of the new sports were cycling, swimming, and tennis. Winners of the new games did not get olive oil. They won medals. The medals were gold, silver, and bronze.



The Olympics Today

The Olympic Games are still changing. Today the Olympics have two separate games, the Summer and Winter Olympics. Each is played every four years. New sports are sometimes added. There are the Special Olympic for athletes with special needs. There are also games for teenage athletes.

How will the Olympic Games change in the future? What new sports will be added? Catch the next games to find out!