

Maths Takeaway



This month's special

Beijing 2008 Games of the XXIX Olympiad



Did you know ...

- Over 16 days, 11,000 athletes will compete in 28 sports for 302 gold medals.

<http://en.beijing2008.cn>

- The Games will be watched by 500,000 spectators and an estimated television audience of over 40 billion people.
- 1,000 cameras will be used to broadcast over 4,000 hours of live Olympic Games coverage.

<http://en.beijing2008.cn/bocog/organization/n214071836.shtml>

Starters

Can you ...

- check what parts of the games are being shown when and on which TV channel?
- set the video to record all the races you want to watch?
- have an idea of 'how long' and 'how far' for the different events?
- add up the points or the medals tally?

And if you want to play some sport yourself can you ...

- compare the costs of joining a club or gym, or paying by the session?
- keep score or monitor your own performance?
- use tally marks to keep track of numbers, perhaps when counting up for a survey?

You can check out your maths skills further by doing the mini-test at www.move-on.org.uk/testyourskills.asp. You can join a free group to improve your maths and gain a national qualification. Ask at the library, your local college or learning centre, ring 0800 100 900 or look on the Move On web site to find a local test centre.

Main course

Olympic years

According to historical records, the first ancient Olympic Games can be traced back to 776 BC.

The first modern Olympic Summer Games was held in Athens in 1896 and has been held every four years since then (except for during World War 1 and World War 2).

How do you know if there was, or will be, an Olympics Summer Games in any given year? If you can divide the year by 4, and there is no remainder, then it's an Olympic year, e.g.

$$1896 \div 4 = 474 \text{ remainder } 0 \text{ (Olympic year)}$$

$$1907 \div 4 = 476 \text{ remainder } 3 \text{ (non-Olympic year)}$$

Which of the following are Olympic years?

1972	1983	2004	1960
1954	1925	2012	1998
1948	2018	1966	1989

Visit www.olympic.org/uk/games/index_uk.asp for a list of years and locations of the Olympic Summer Games. Click on this link to find out more about the Olympic Games: www.olympic.org



Working together

Specials

The fastest man on earth

The 100 metres is the shortest outdoor sprint race distance in athletics. The reigning men's 100 metres Olympic champion is often named 'the fastest man in the world', even though the 200 metres has a faster average speed.

Records 1912–1976		Records post-1976	
10.6	1912	9.93	1983
10.4	1921	9.92	1988
10.3	1930	9.90	1991
10.2	1936	9.86	1991
10.1	1956	9.85	1994
10.0	1960	9.84 *	1996
9.9	1972	9.79	1999
		9.77	2005
		9.74	2006
		9.72	2008

* current Olympic record

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Record_progression_100_m_men

- How much faster has a man run 100 metres since records began in 1912?
- What's the difference between the current world and Olympic records?
- What has been the greatest length of time between new records?

Usain Bolt is the current world record holder. Watch him break the record by running 9.72 seconds in New York:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vno5qQmE6qk

Set menu

Test questions

- 1 How many 100 metres does an athlete cover in a 10,000 metres race?
a) 10 b) 100
c) 1,000 d) 10,000
- 2 The Spectator Call Centre is expecting to take around ten million calls during the games. What is this in figures?
a) 100,000 b) 100,000,000
c) 10,000,000 d) 1,000,000
- 3 An Olympic swimming pool is 50 metres long. How many lengths are swum by each person in the 1,500 metres race?
a) 25 b) 50
c) 40 d) 30
- 4 In a 4 x 100 metres relay race in the Olympic pool, how many lengths are swum by each team?
a) 8
b) 10
c) 2
d) 4



If you would like to try more questions, log on to the Learner Route at www.move-on.org.uk.

Extras

Grin or groan?

Q Did you hear about the hopeless athlete?

A He ran a bath and came in second.

A javelin thrower called Vicky
Found the grip of her javelin sticky.

When it came to the throw
She couldn't let go

Making judging the distance quite tricky.

'It doesn't matter whether you win or lose until you lose.'

Resources for tutors

Resources are available to download from www.move-on.org.uk. Register on the site to access the Move Up Teacher Route at www.move-on.org.uk/mu_route.asp.