

# Olympic Games - History

The Olympic Games began in ancient Greece 3,000 years ago in 776 B.C. They were held every four years until 393 A.D. when the games were banned.

1550 years later, in 1894, a Frenchman named Baron Pierre de Coubertin, revived the ancient tradition, and the modern-day Olympic Summer Games were born.

The first modern Olympics took place in 1896 at Athens (Greece) and featured 280 participants from 13 nations, competing in 43 events. Since that time the Olympics have taken place every four years with the exception of 1916, 1940 and 1944 due to world wars.

Ancient Games (776 B.C. - 393 A.D.)	Modern games (1896 - )
Initially a 1 day event, then 3 and 5 days	The Olympics run for 16 days
Part of a religious festival	A celebration of sport
Always held in Greece, Olympia	Held in different countries every 4 years
Only Greeks went to watch	An international event
Winners received an olive wreath	Winners receive a gold medal
Only men competed	Men and women compete
Married women not allowed to watch	Anyone can attend
Men competed without clothes	Competitors are dressed

Today there are more than 10,000 athletes competing in 206 events from all over the world.

