



The Olympics Past and Present

General Information



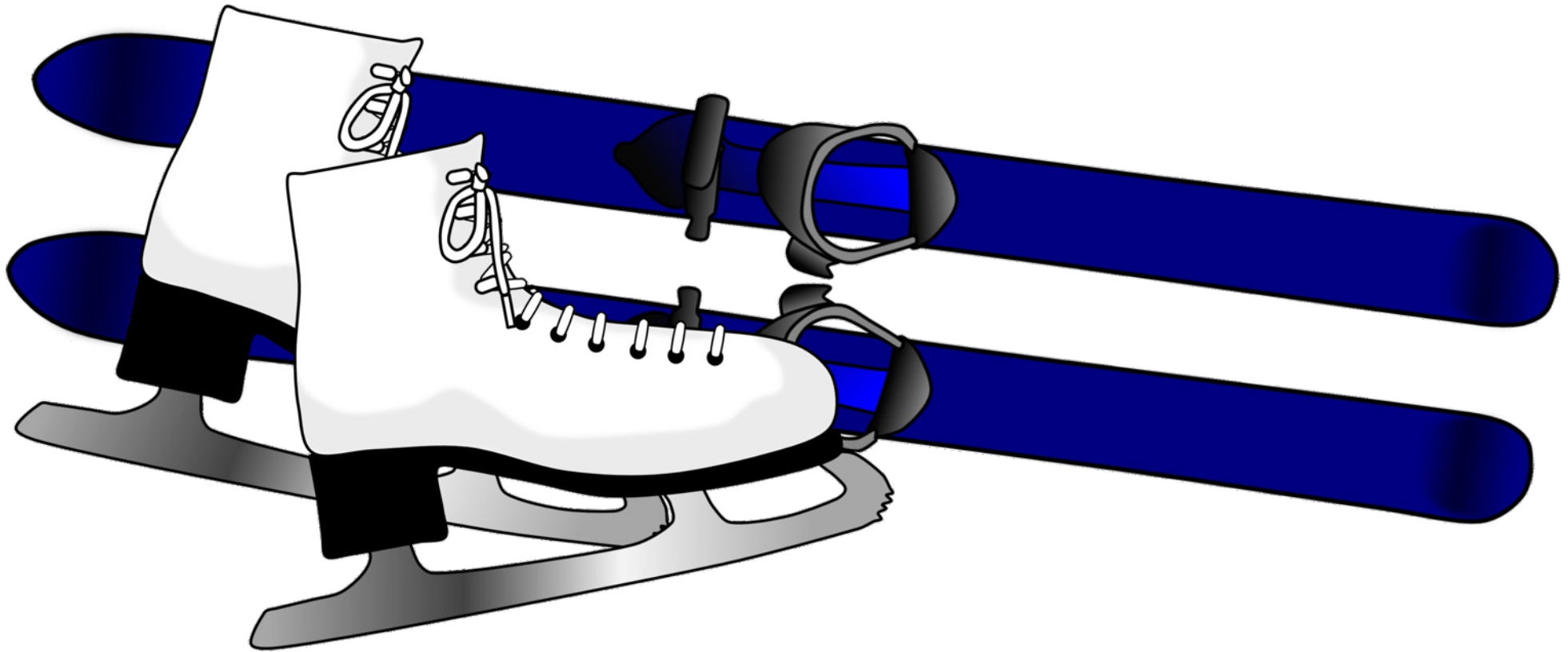
The first recorded Olympic Games was held in Olympia, Greece in the year 776 BC.



Like today, the Games were held every 4 years but only in Olympia, Greece.

Now the Games are held in a different country around the world each time.





Today, in addition to the Summer Olympics, the Winter Olympics are held two years after the summer Games.

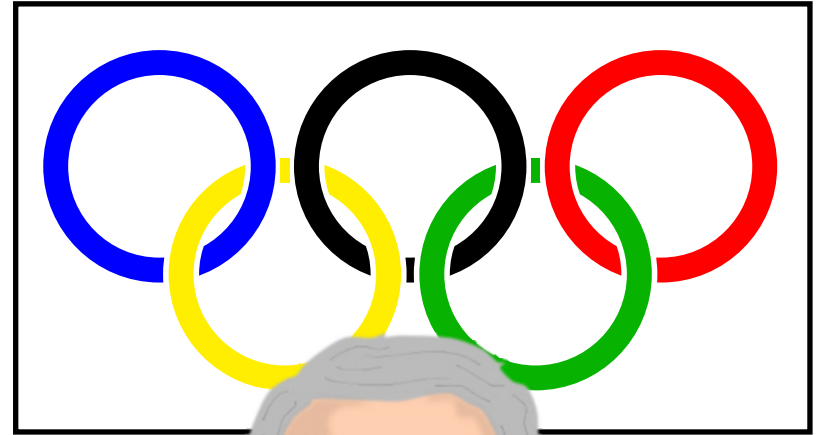


A torch symbolises the Ancient Olympics and is carried around the host country of the Games.

The Olympic Flag

The Olympic Flag was designed by Pierre de Coubertin in 1914.

Pierre de Coubertin was the founder of the modern Olympic Movement.



The Sports

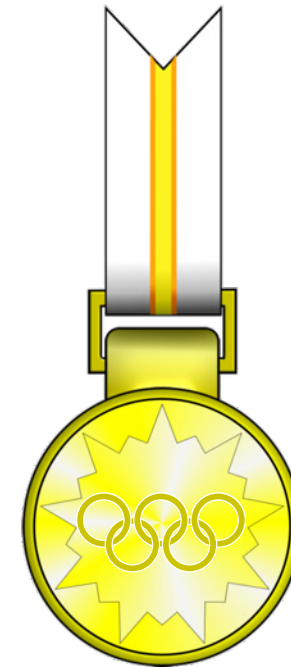
Ancient Olympics

In the Ancient Greek Olympics there were only 10 sports.



Modern Olympics

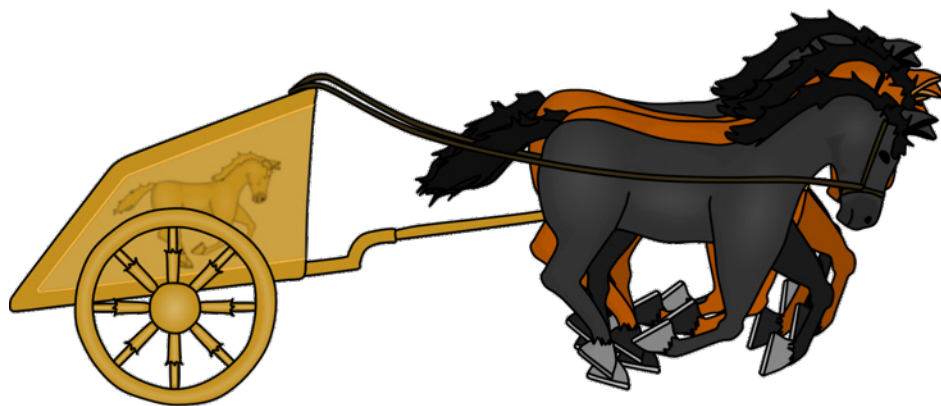
Today, there are more than 20 different sports.



Equestrian

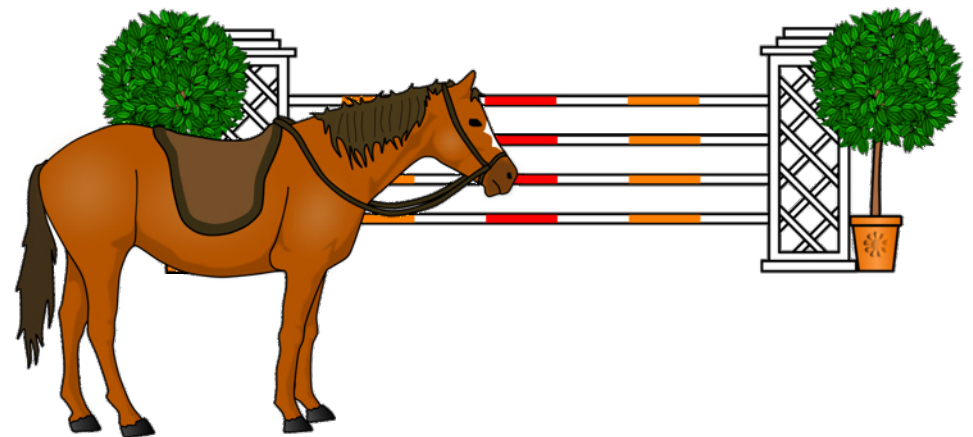
Ancient Olympics

Chariot races and other horse races were very popular and included in the Games.



Modern Olympics

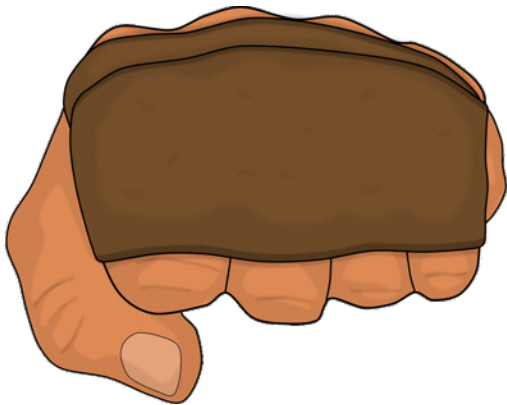
Modern Olympic horse events include show jumping and dressage, but no chariot races!



Boxing

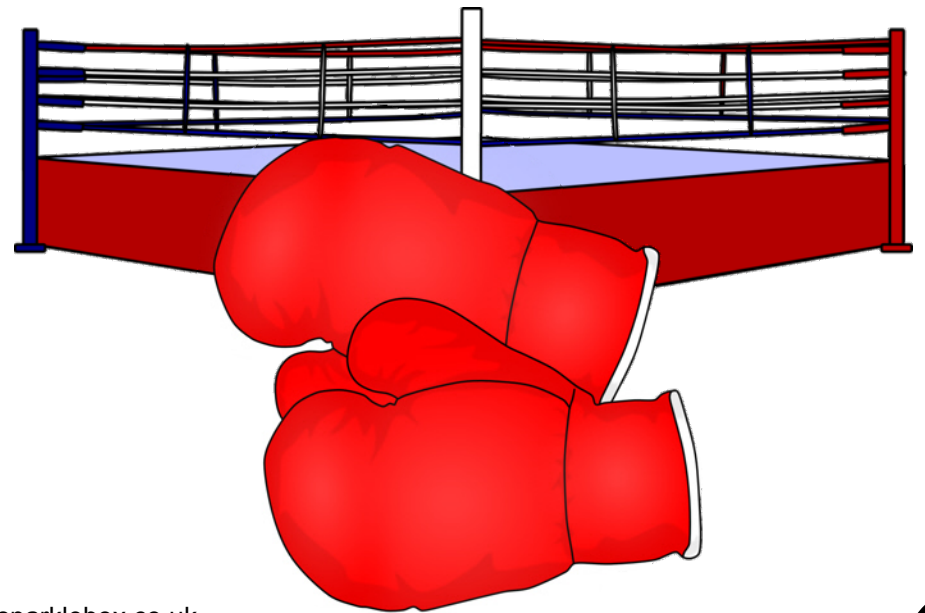
Ancient Olympics

Boxing took place in an open space and the competitors wore strips of leather tied around their hands.



Modern Olympics

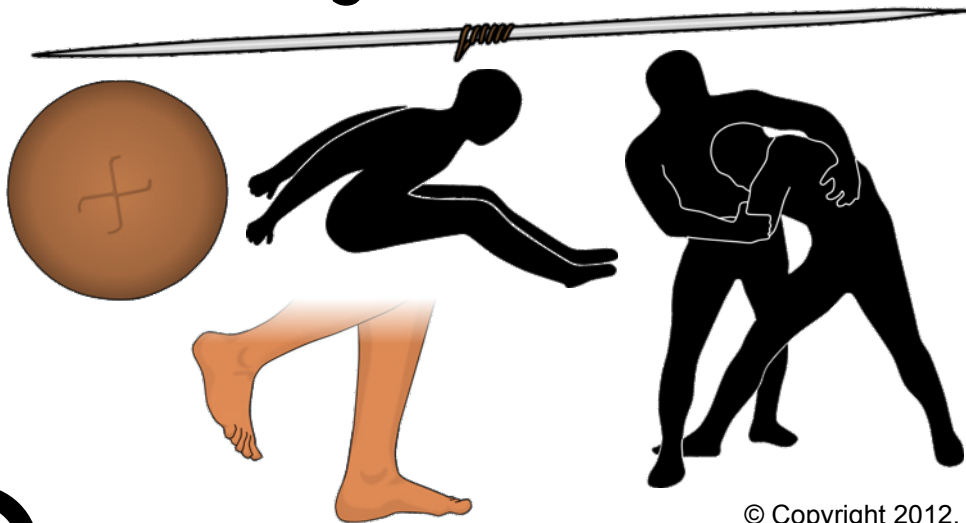
Boxing takes place in a ring and boxers wear special gloves.



Pentathlon

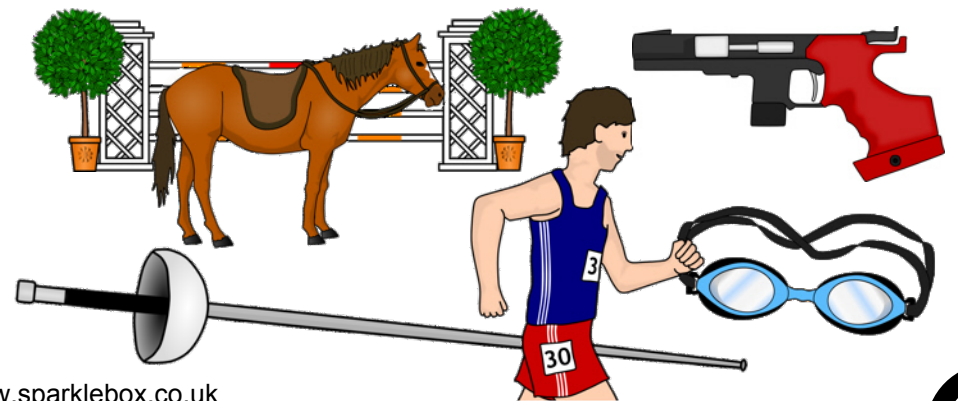
Ancient Olympics

The pentathlon consisted of discus, javelin, long jump, running and wrestling.



Modern Olympics

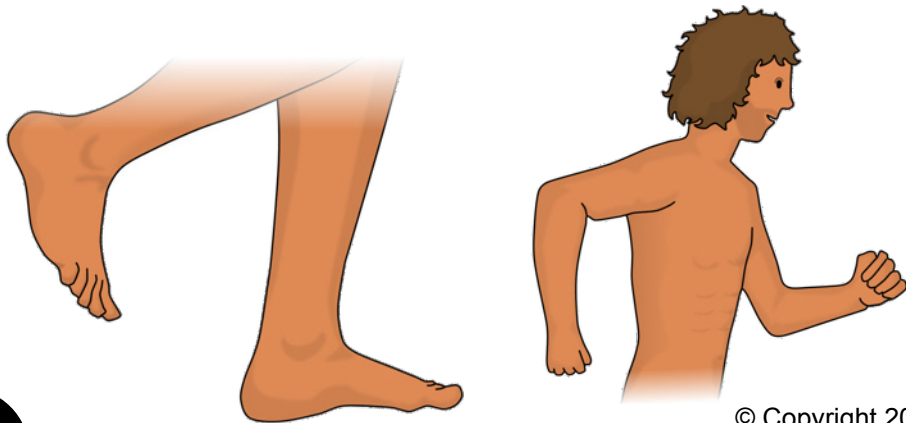
The modern pentathlon consists of pistol shooting, fencing, swimming, show jumping and a cross-country run.



Running Events

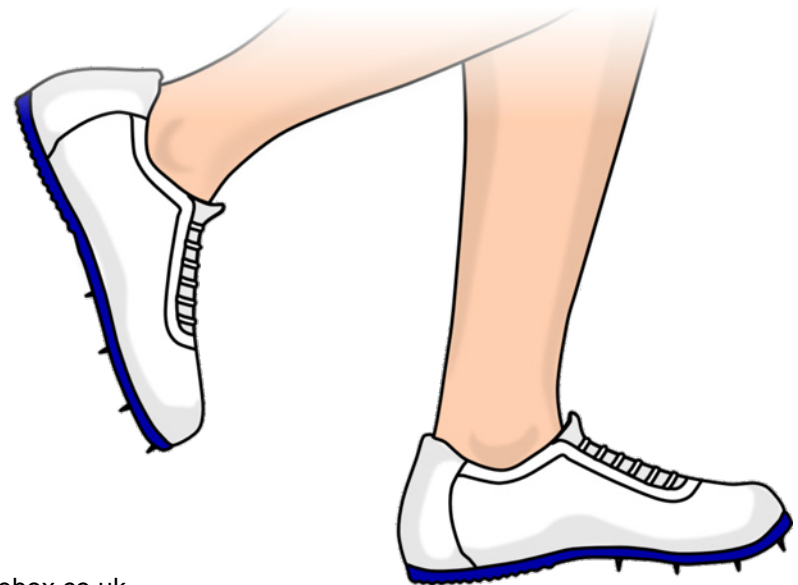
Ancient Olympics

There were three main events of different distances. Athletes ran in bare feet and wore no clothes.



Modern Olympics

Today, track runners use special shoes that have spikes to help them grip.



Long Jump

Ancient Olympics

The long jump was part of the Pentathlon event. Athletes held stone weights to help them jump further.



Modern Olympics

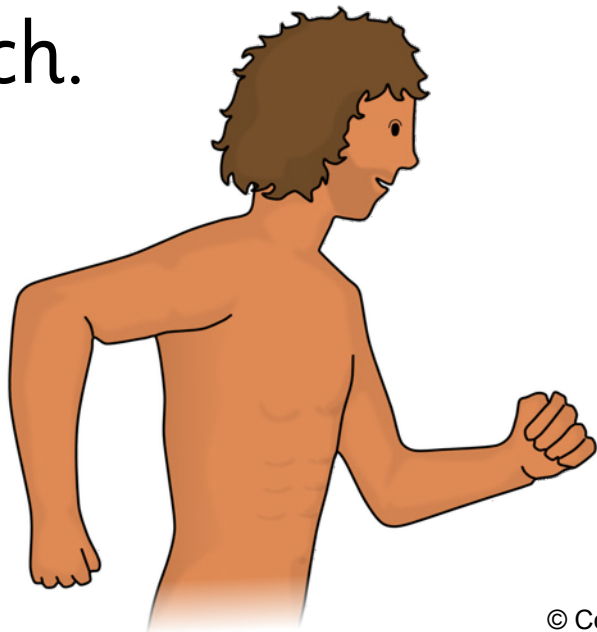
These days the long jump is a separate event. Athletes no longer use weights.



Competitors

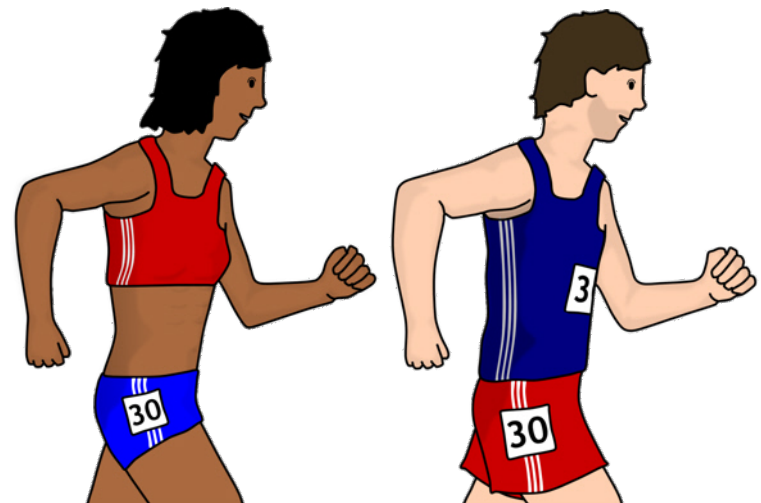
Ancient Olympics

Only men could compete in the Games and no women were allowed to watch.



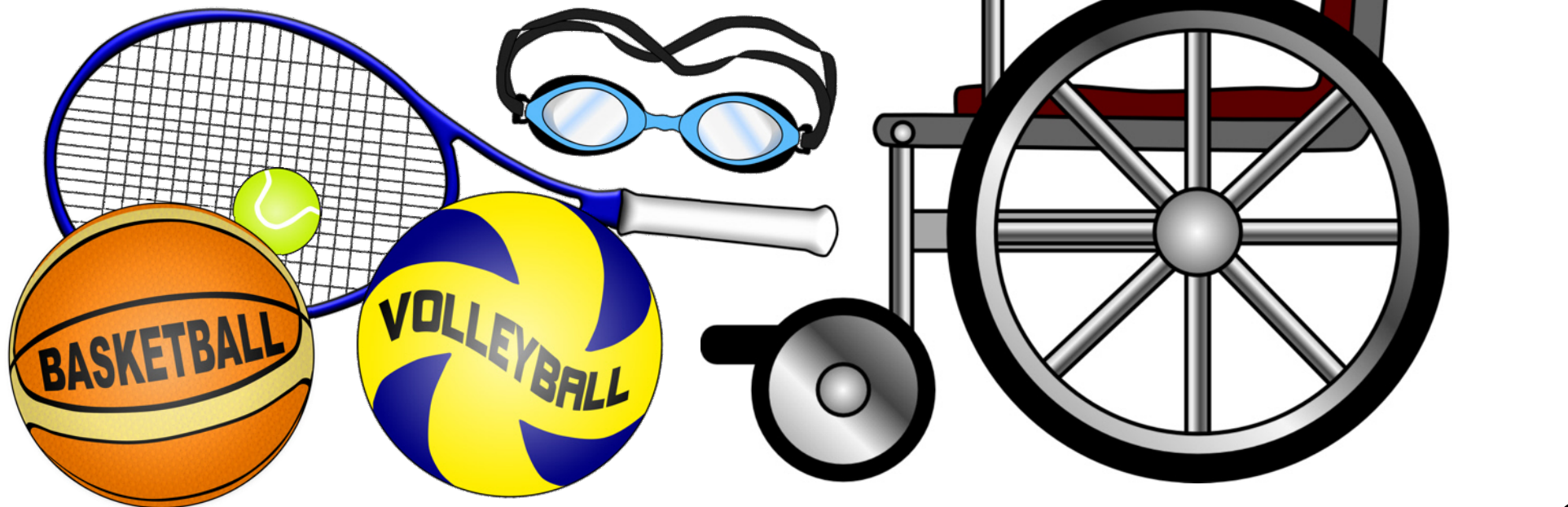
Modern Olympics

Both men and women take part but they don't compete against each other.



Paralympic Games

Today the Olympic Games is followed by the Paralympics where athletes with physical disabilities compete.



Winners

Ancient Olympics

Winning athletes were awarded an olive wreath to wear on their heads and an olive branch.



Modern Olympics

Winning competitors are awarded gold, silver and bronze medals for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. They also receive a bouquet of flowers.

