

Bársony János Általános Iskola

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Olympic Games

The original Olympic Games took place in Ancient Greece in 776 BC. It had only one event, a sprint. Only young men could compete and women couldn't. They had to be free man and speak Greek. The prize was a crown of olive leaves. For each Olympics, a new flame is started in the ancient Olympic stadium, Elis, Greece. The runners take the flame to the country where the games will be. The last runner uses a torch to light the large Olympic torch which burns during the games. The really best sportsmen from all over the world compete in the Olympics.

Pierre de Fredey, Baron de Coubertin (1863-1937) a French educator and sportsman brought the Olympic Games back in 1896, in Athens, Greece.

The flag of the Olympic Games has five rings (blue, yellow, black, green and red) on a white ground. The rings are for the five parts of the world: Africa, two Americas, Asia, Australia and Europe. Baron de Coubertin designed the flag of the Olympics in 1913-1914.

The first winter Olympics were in 1924, in Charmonix, France. In the Winter Olympics there are ice hockey, figure skating, speed skating, snowboarding, bobsleighbing, cross country skiing, curling, skeleton, ski jumping and other sports. Winter Olympic Games take place two years after summer Olympic Games.

The Paralympics are for people who have physical disabilities. Some of the competitors are blind and deaf and many of them compete in wheelchairs. The Paralympics take place after the Olympic Games.

At the modern Olympics, each first-place winner gets a gold medal, each second-place winner gets a silver medal, and each third-place winner gets a bronze medal.