

Olympic Games - History



Study*ladder*

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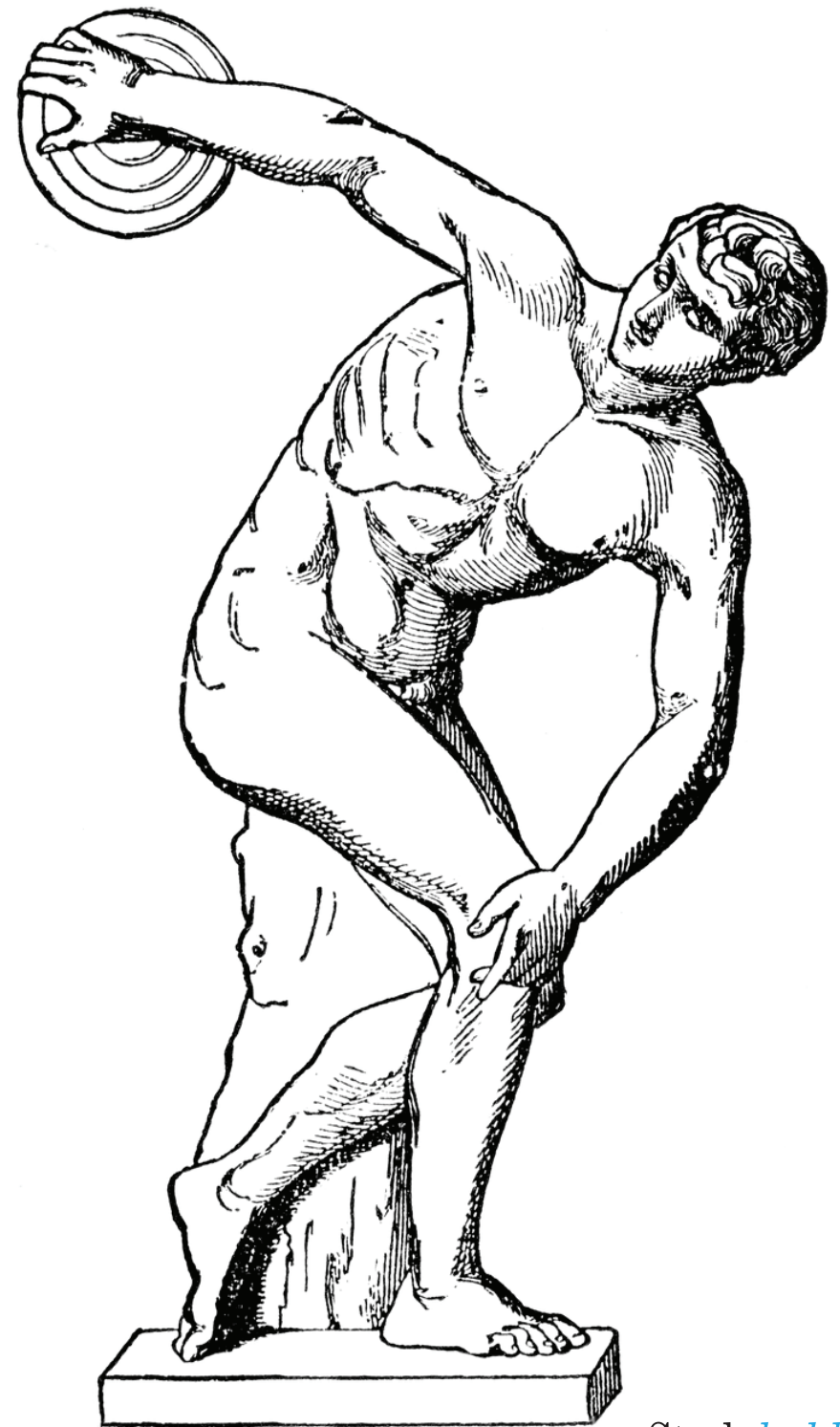
The Olympic Games began in ancient Greece 3,000 years ago in 776 B.C. They were held every four years until 393 A.D. when the games were banned.

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.

The 2020 Summer Olympic Games were postponed due to a world wide pandemic. The appearance of the COVID-19 virus in late 2019 meant that it would be unsafe for large crowds to travel and gather together. As a result, the Tokyo games were re-scheduled to be held at the same location the following year. The games are expected to take place with health safety measures in place.

The Tokyo Olympic Games may be run differently to past years in order to keep people safe.

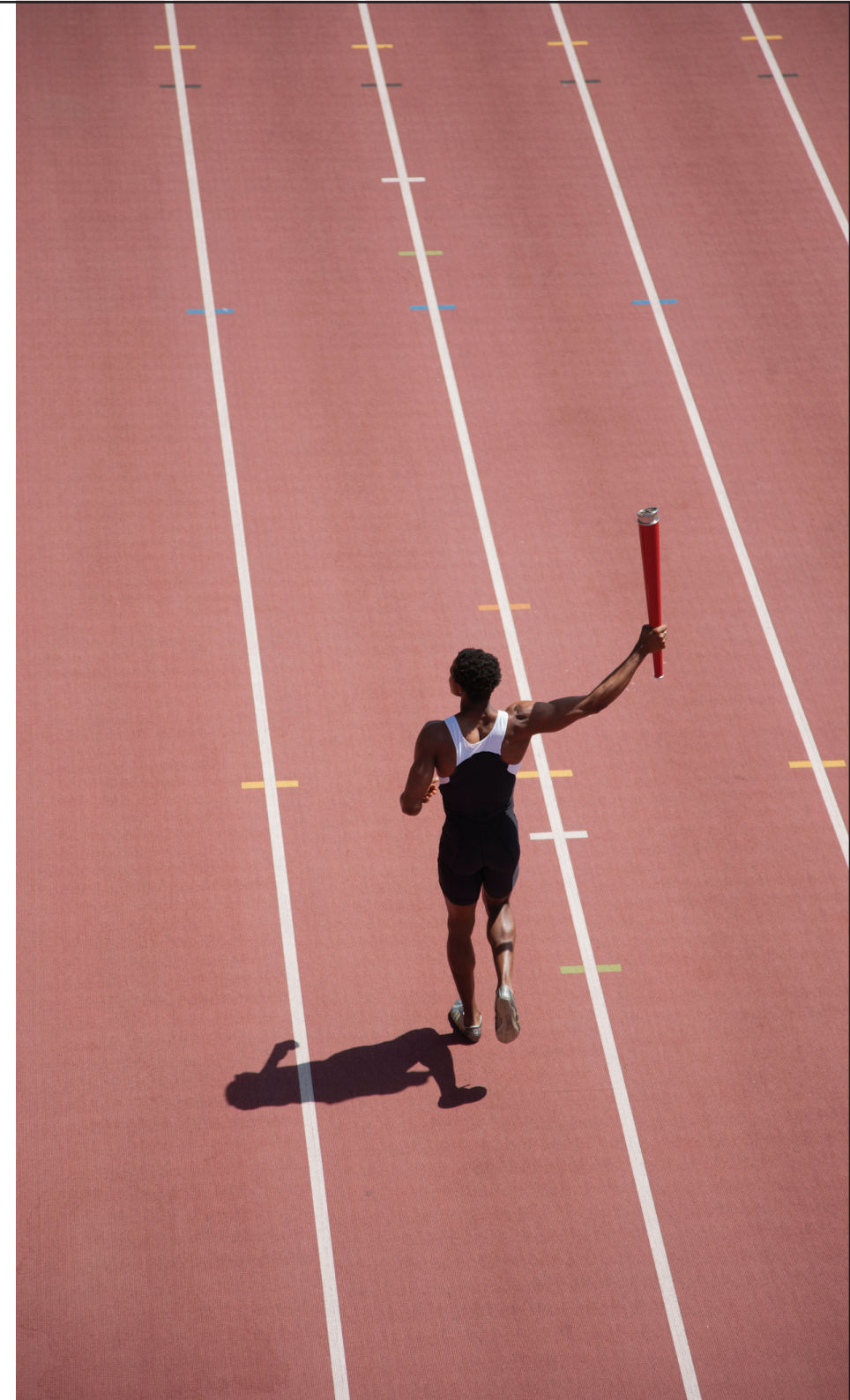


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How do the modern day Olympic games compare to the ancient games? Here is a list of facts, some of which may surprise you!

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

- These days, the Olympic schedule includes a separate Paralympics competition which is run in the host city directly after the Summer Olympic events.
- In the Tokyo 2020 games there will be 33 sports, with more than 11 000 athletes competing in 339 events from all over the world.





Modern Paralympic Games

Research Task:

- *Find out when and where the first Paralympic games were held.*
- *Choose a Paralympian from your country to investigate.*
- *Discuss the sport they compete in, the modifications that have been made to their event and their Olympic records.*
- *Present your findings to your class.*