

## Year 5

# Issues in Sport: Let Women Compete 1 Retrieval 2b

Throughout history, men founded most sports. Most of the participants in those sports were men, and most of the people running the sports were men. So it is no surprise that men's sports tend to be more popular than women's sports. But women's sports are catching up.

Men's sports have been a major part of society for generations. People have grown up watching football since the mid-1800s. Women's sports only began to grow rapidly around the 1970s. Before then, women were sometimes barred from playing. Other times they were severely limited. This sexism was simply part of the culture.

For many years, people did not want to see women athletes. In the past, sports were seen as an activity for men. Women were not supposed to be aggressive or athletic. Some people also claimed sports could be harmful to women. They worried that sports could hurt women's bodies, which they believed were more fragile than men's bodies.

Some women began to challenge these sexist beliefs by the late 1890s and women's sports slowly grew over the next several years. The beginning of the modern Olympic Games in 1896 was a milestone for all sports. But the Olympics have been particularly important for women's sports. Men have always had many opportunities to play sports at a high level. For women, the Olympic Games have been the one constant world-class competition.

Yet women have also faced many challenges within the Olympics, some of which still continue. The first obstacle to overcome was participation. A Frenchman, Pierre de Coubertin, the Baron de Coubertin, founded the modern Olympics. He wanted to maintain many of the traditions from the ancient Greek Olympics. One of those traditions was that participation was limited to men.

The IOC barred women from the first Olympic Games, in 1896, but relaxed its ban after that. In the 1900 Games, women competed in tennis and golf. More women's sports were added to the Games that followed. However, the women's programme was always much smaller than the men's programme, and women were generally limited to sports that were thought to be less physically demanding.

# Questions

1 Who founded most sports?

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2 Look in the third paragraph.

Find **two** characteristics that women were not supposed to be.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3 Complete the table below with facts from the text.

The date people have been watching football since:	
When women's sports began to grow:	
When the first modern Olympic Games were held:	
When women competed in golf in the Olympics:	

4 Look at the last paragraph. Which **two** aspects still made the Olympics unequal for women?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

5 Choose the best group of words to fit the sentences.

Draw a circle around your choice.

(a) Pierre de Fredey...

wanted women to compete in the Olympics

did not want women to compete in the Olympics

was from Germany

was a baroness

(b) After 1896...

women competed in demanding sports

women competed in a very large number of sports

women were banned from competing

women competed in more Olympic sports

6 Look at the paragraph beginning '*Yet women have also faced many challenges within the Olympics...*'

What was the first challenge needing to be overcome?

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7 Look at the whole text.

Number the following 1–4 to show the order in which you **first** read about them.

The 1896 Olympic Games

Pierre de Fredey

football

The IOC

8 Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
Women were thought to be strong and physically able.		
For some time, people did not want to see women compete in sports.		
Women's sports were as popular as men's sports.		
Pierre de Fredy was from France.		

# Answers

1 Who founded most sports?

**Men.**

2 Look in the third paragraph.

Find **two** characteristics that women were not supposed to be.

**Aggressive.**

**Athletic.**

3 Complete the table below with facts from the text.

The date people have been watching football since:	<b>The mid-1800s</b>
When women's sports began to grow:	<b>The 1970s</b>
When the first modern Olympic Games were held:	<b>1896</b>
When women competed in golf in the Olympics:	<b>The 1900s/the 1900 Games</b>

4 Look at the last paragraph. Which **two** aspects still made the Olympics unequal for women?

**The programme was always much smaller than the men's.**

**Women were generally limited to sports that were thought to be less physically demanding.**

5 Choose the best group of words to fit the sentences.

Draw a circle around your choice.

(a) Pierre de Fredey...

wanted women to compete in the Olympics

did not want women to compete in the Olympics

was from Germany

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(b) After 1896...

women competed in demanding sports

women competed in a very large number of sports

women were banned from competing

women competed in more Olympic sports

6 Look at the paragraph beginning 'Yet women have also faced many challenges within the Olympics...'

What was the first challenge needing to be overcome?

### Participation.

7 Look at the whole text.

Number the following 1–4 to show the order in which you **first** read about them.

2 The 1896 Olympic Games

3 Pierre de Fredey

1 football

4 The IOC

8 Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
Women were thought to be strong and physically able.		✓
For some time, people did not want to see women compete in sports.	✓	
Women's sports were as popular as men's sports.		✓
Pierre de Fredey was from France.	✓	