

Year 5

Issues in Sport: Let Women Compete 2

Vocabulary 2a

Athletics has always been one of the most popular sports at the Olympics, but the battle for women's inclusion in track and field has been long. Women's track and field was first allowed at the 1928 Games. Even then, only five women's events were offered, while for the men there were 22 athletics events.

In the 1928 Games, the longest women's running event was 800 metres. Afterwards, the runners appeared exhausted and were sweating – all of that is considered normal today. But in 1928 it caused an international sensation. Afterwards, the IOC cut the race out of the Olympic programme, and from 1932 until 1960 the longest women's race in the Olympics was 200 metres.

By the 1970s, women's rights had become a major issue and women wanted equality in all areas of their lives. That included equality for girls and women in sports.

Women's sports got a boost in other countries during the 1970s as well. Football was the world's most popular sport. The modern rules for football were invented in England, a country that has always been a leader in men's football. But the sport's organisers banned women from playing the sport in 1921, claiming that football was “quite unsuitable for females and ought not to be encouraged”. Other countries made similar rulings. The English ban was lifted in 1971, while West Germany lifted its ban one year earlier. But Brazil did not lift its ban on women players until 1979.

Women's football took off soon after the ban was lifted. The Women's World Cup debuted in 1991, and women's football was added to the Olympic Games in 1996. Both competitions have since grown into major events and professional leagues exist in the United States, United Kingdom and other countries, mostly in Europe.

Questions

- 1 *'Athletics has always been one of the most popular sports at the Olympics, but the **battle** for women's inclusion in track and field has been long.'*

Which of the following is closest in meaning to '**battle**'?

Tick **one**.

game

fight

background

- 2 Look at the quote from the first paragraph:

'Women's track and field was first allowed at the 1928 Games.'

Find and copy one word that is closest in meaning to '**permitted**'.

- 3 Look at the quote from the second paragraph:

'Afterwards, the runners appeared exhausted and were sweating – all of that is considered normal today.'

Find and copy one word which means '**very tired**'.

- 4 Look at the extract from paragraph two:

'In the 1928 Games, the longest women's running event was 800 metres. Afterwards, the runners appeared exhausted and were sweating – all of that is considered normal today.'

In 1928, the women's 800m running event was considered...

Tick **two**.

too easy

too hard

too tiring

- 5 Underline **one word** in the quotation below that tells you the ban on women playing football had been removed.

'Women's football took off soon after the ban was lifted. The Women's World Cup debuted in 1991, and women's football was added to the Olympic Games in 1996.'

- 6 Look at the quotation from the fourth paragraph:

'The modern rules for football were invented in England, a country that has always been a leader in men's football.'

Find and **copy one word** that is closest in meaning to '**created**'.

- 7 *'The Women's World Cup **debuted** in 1991, and women's football was added to the Olympic Games in 1996.'*

Which of the following is closest in meaning to '**debuted**'?

Tick **one**.

first started

ended

continued

Answers

- 1 *'Athletics has always been one of the most popular sports at the Olympics, but the **battle** for women's inclusion in track and field has been long.'*

Which of the following is closest in meaning to '**battle**'?

Tick **one**.

game



fight

background

- 2 Look at the quote from the first paragraph:

'Women's track and field was first allowed at the 1928 Games.'

Find and copy one word that is closest in meaning to '**permitted**'.

Allowed.

- 3 Look at the quote from the second paragraph:

'Afterwards, the runners appeared exhausted and were sweating – all of that is considered normal today.'

Find and copy one word which means '**very tired**'.

Exhausted.

- 4 Look at the extract from paragraph two:

'In the 1928 Games, the longest women's running event was 800 metres. Afterwards, the runners appeared exhausted and were sweating – all of that is considered normal today.'

In 1928, the women's 800m running event was considered...

Tick **two**.

too easy



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too tiring

- 5 Underline **one word** in the quotation below that tells you the ban on women playing football had been removed.

*'Women's football took off soon after the ban was **lifted**. The Women's World Cup debuted in 1991, and women's football was added to the Olympic Games in 1996.'*

- 6 Look at the quotation from the fourth paragraph:

'The modern rules for football were invented in England, a country that has always been a leader in men's football.'

Find and **copy one word** that is closest in meaning to '**created**'.

Invented.

- 7 *'The Women's World Cup **debuted** in 1991, and women's football was added to the Olympic Games in 1996.'*

Which of the following is closest in meaning to '**debuted**'?

Tick **one**.

first started

ended

continued