

The 1896 OLYMPICS



Opening ceremony of the 1896 Olympics



Some of the USA athletes in the 1896 Olympics.

The 1896 Olympics were the first Olympic Games since ancient times. They were held in Athens, Greece in April 1896. At that time, it was the largest international sporting event ever held. Fourteen countries, including the United States, participated.

There were nine categories of events of the 1896 Olympics. They included athletics, which was similar to track and field events, cycling, fencing and wrestling. Other athletes competed in swimming, weightlifting, tennis and gymnastics.

Winners of the events won medals, although first place medals were silver and second place medals were copper. Today, first place medals are gold, second place medals are silver and third place are bronze. Winners also received an olive branch and a diploma.

Only male athletes were allowed to participate in the 1896 Olympics. Women would first be allowed to participate in the second Olympic games in 1900 in Paris, France.

The U.S. team was made up mostly of university students from Harvard and Princeton. The U.S. team won 11 first place medals, the most of any country. Greece won the most medals overall.

The 1896 Olympics were very popular. Over 80,000 people attended the opening ceremony.



A first place medal from the 1896 Olympics

Q&A

Where were the 1896 Olympic Games held?

How many countries participated?

What metal was the first place medal made of?

What country won the most first place medals?

Secret Code Word

Use the secret code to find a word about the 1896 Olympics. Write the letter in the blank that matches the number from the code.

6 9 18 19 20

Secret code

1 = A	7 = G	13 = M	19 = S	25 = Y
2 = B	8 = H	14 = N	20 = T	26 = Z
3 = C	9 = I	15 = O	21 = U	
4 = D	10 = J	16 = P	22 = V	
5 = E	11 = K	17 = Q	23 = W	
6 = F	12 = L	18 = R	24 = X	