Go For Gold: Paris 2024 Olympic Assembly by Musicline

• Suitable for **Years 3 to 6** (age 7 – 11 years)

PowerPoint Slide 1

**The world from space**. Welcome the children and explain that the assembly is about the world’s greatest sporting event.

Ask the children if they know which countries they are looking at.

Which games are played with these three different balls?

You’ll have to really concentrate as the pictures only appear for a second.

**Click - Three pictures appear, one after another; football, basketball & tennis ball.**

What are the names of the three games?

PowerPoint Slide 2

**Click - What is the world’s greatest sporting event?**

**Click - Five choices of events appear.**

Ask the children if they have an idea which one of these it may be?

It is, of course, the ‘Olympic Games’.

**Click – ‘Olympic Games’.**

PowerPoint Slide 3

**Click - Blank page.**

The modern Olympic Games were first held in Athens, Greece in 1896.

They were the idea of a Frenchman, Baron Pierre de Coubertin.

**Click - Picture of Baron Pierre de Coubertin.**

He had the idea of a great sporting competition where all countries could come together, in peace, to celebrate sport.

**Click - Pictures of shooting, fencing, weightlifting, swimming and gymnastics.**

(Point to each picture in turn).

There was to be shooting, fencing, weightlifting, swimming and gymnastics.

But the highlight was the first ever Olympic Marathon run on 11th August 1896.

Where did the Baron get his idea from?

PowerPoint Slide 4

**Click - Picture of Ancient Olympia now.**

Yes … Ancient Greece, about 3,000 years ago.

These were held in honour of the Greek God, Zeus, at Olympia.

At first, they lasted only one day and there were only running races, but soon the competition developed into five days and covered events like wrestling, chariot racing, and throwing the javelin and discus.

**Click - Picture of Ancient Olympia as it was, fading to the original Ancient Olympic running track as it looks today.**

People would travel from all over Greece to compete. Any wars had to stop to allow people to travel safely to Olympia, to take part or watch, and to get home again when they were over.

After that, people were allowed to start their wars again!

The Greeks held their games every four years and we still do the same.

There were very few rules by our standards.

In wrestling, the only rules were that you weren’t allowed to bite or poke your opponent’s eyes out!

PowerPoint Slide 5

**Click - Blank book.**

Which sports do you recognize in this next slide? (point to each activity in turn).

**Click – Ancient Greek wrestling, fading to chariot racing, discus and jumping … then blank page.**

PowerPoint Slide 6

**Click - Picture of Ancient Greek wrestling.**

Married women weren’t allowed to attend the games or take part, but unmarried girls were allowed their own running races.

Even in 1896, with the start of the modern Olympics, women were still not allowed to compete. Although one woman, a Greek lady called Stamata Revithi, did complete the marathon in 5 hours and 30 minutes, the day after the men.

Nowadays, of course, the Olympics are huge in comparison.

They take place all over the world with many more sports represented.

In 2012 they were held in London.

PowerPoint Slide 7

**Click - Where were the Olympics held in 2020?**

**(Fading to) Pictures of Sydney, Moscow and Tokyo.**

**Click - Picture of Tokyo is projected.**

PowerPoint Slide 8

**Click - And where will the Olympics be held in 2024?**

**Click - Pictures of Paris, Wellington and Rome.**

Does anybody know which city it is?

Let’s find out…

**Click - Paris is projected.**

**Click - Arrow to Paris.**

The modern Olympics did not only take inspiration from the Ancient Greeks.

Baron Pierre de Coubertin also took his ideas from the Olympic Games of…

PowerPoint Slide 9

**Click - Pictures of Much Wenlock.**

**Click - Map and arrow pointing to Much Wenlock.**

Much Wenlock, Shropshire, England!

These were the idea of a local doctor, William Brookes who wanted to encourage good health and exercise in the people of the area.

His ‘Wenlock Olympic Games’ took place for the first time in 1850 and had cycle races on Penny-farthing bikes and an ‘Old Woman’s Race’ where the prize was a pound of tea!

PowerPoint Slide 10

**Click - Picture of ‘Penny – Farthing’ cycle racing.**

The cycle was called a “Penny-farthing” because in those days, a penny was a large coin and a farthing was a small coin.

As you can see, the “Penny-farthing” had a very large front wheel and a much smaller rear wheel.

One of the logo characters from the 2012 London games, Wenlock, commemorates those Wenlock Games …

**Click - Picture of ‘Wenlock’ and picture of ‘Mandeville’.**

Does anyone know where the other character, Mandeville, gets its name from?

Mandeville is in honour of Stoke Mandeville Hospital which held the first games for disabled people in 1948.

**Click - Picture of hospital & ‘Mandeville’ fading to picture of archer and ‘Mandeville’.**

Those taking part were all service personnel who had been injured in the Second World War and the only sport was archery, because it could be done from a wheelchair.

Four years later, in 1952, the Dutch sent a team to compete, and in 1960 the first official Paralympics took place in Rome with 400 athletes from 23 countries.

PowerPoint Slide 11

**Click - Paralympic javelin throwers fading to wheelchair procession & wheelchair racing today.**

PowerPoint Slide 12

**Click - Quote from Baron Pierre de Coubertin.**

What do you suppose this quote from Baron Pierre de Coubertin means?

Explain if necessary.

Tell the children to remember that it isn’t winning that is important; it is taking part and doing your best.

This isn’t just true for sport, but in all things.

**N.B. THERE ARE OTHER INSPIRATIONAL OLYMPIC QUOTES AVAILABLE ONLINE, IF YOU HAVE TIME TO SEARCH.**

***OPTIONAL PRAYER / QUIET REFLECTION***

Dear God,

Help us always to use whatever talents we have, as well as we can, and whatever we do, to always try our best.

Amen.

End with song **‘Go for Gold’** from Musicline’s musical of the same name.