

Olympic History

The first ever Olympic Games were held in Olympia, in **ancient** Greece. They took place in the year 776 B.C. These ancient games were held every 4 years. They stopped in A.D. 393.



This ancient Greek vase shows men running in an Olympic race.

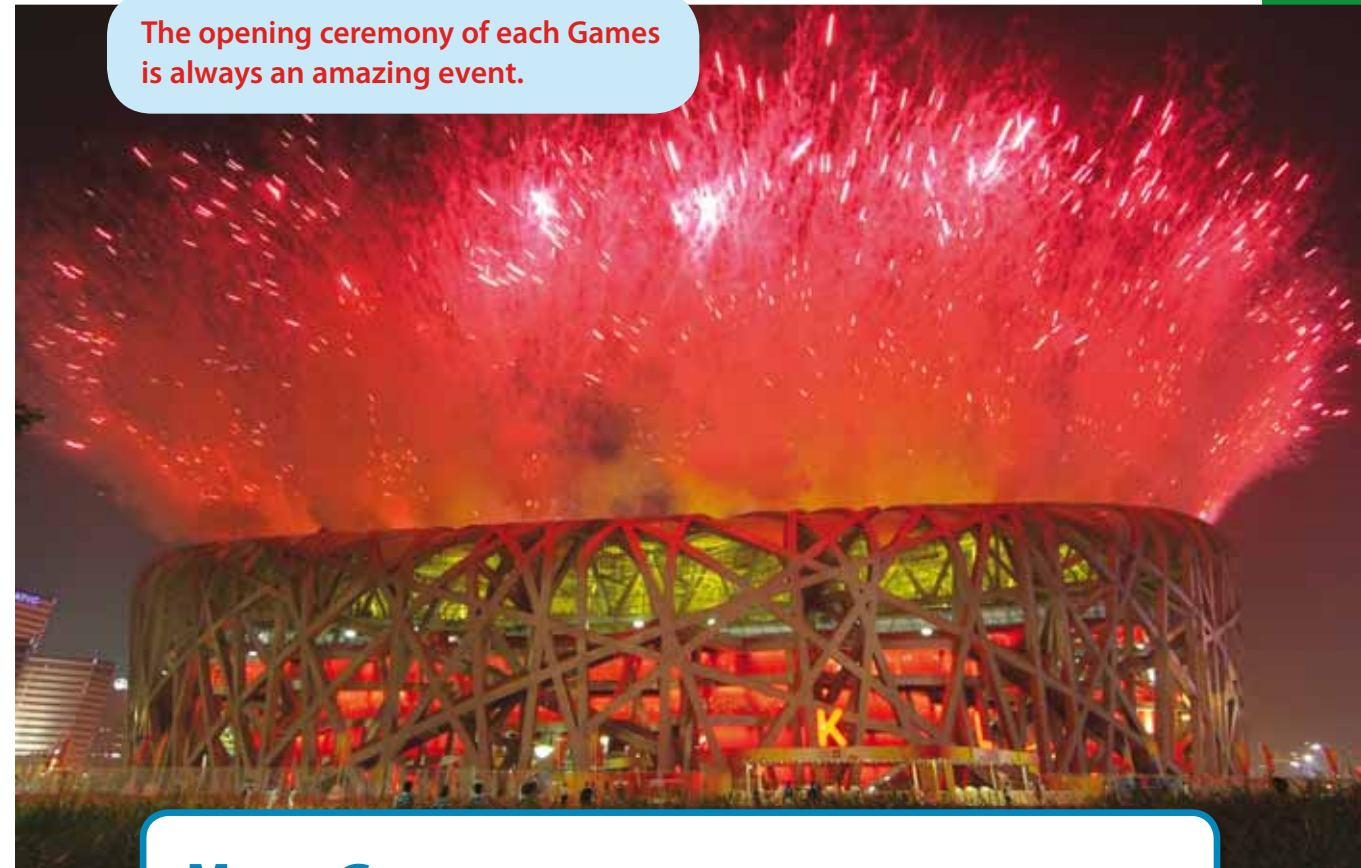
LET'S EXPLORE MATH

Athens, the **site** of the ancient Olympic Games, has hosted the modern Olympic Games twice. The first time was in 1896 and the second in 2004.

- How many years passed between these Games?
- Describe how you solved the problem.

The first **modern** Olympic Summer Games were held in 1896. They took place in Athens, Greece. Only 241 men took part. The 2004 Olympic Summer Games were held in Athens, too. This time over 10,000 men and women took part.

The opening ceremony of each Games is always an amazing event.



Many Games

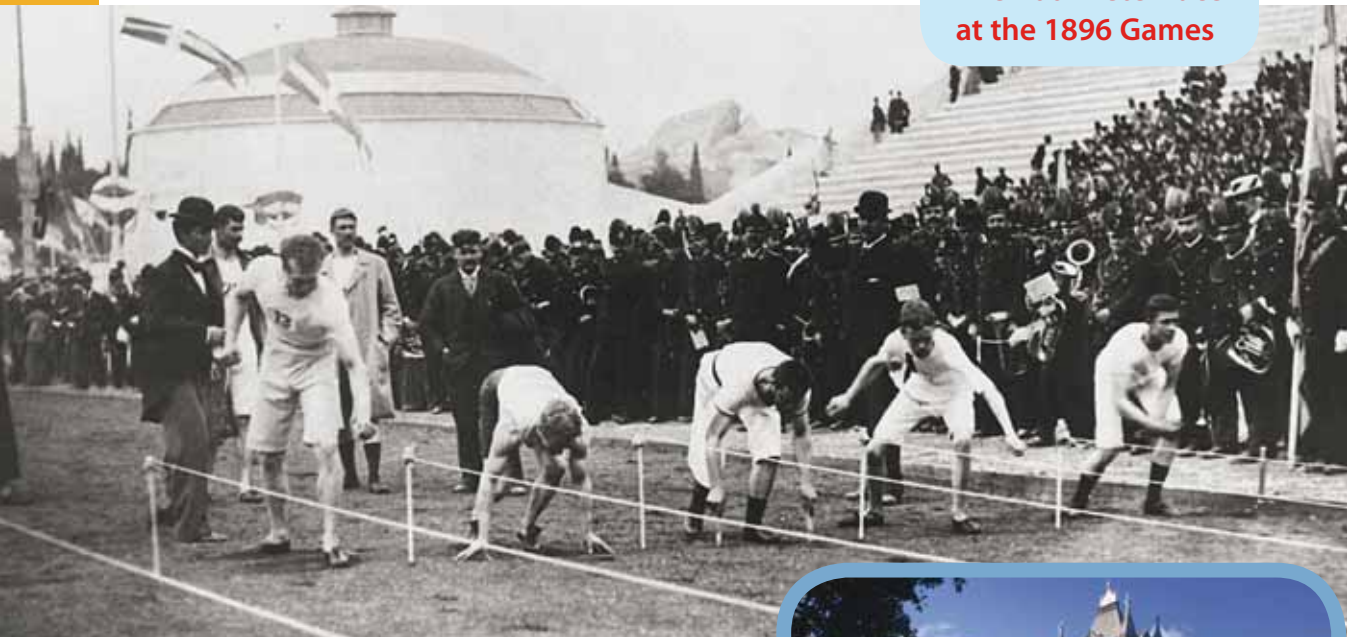
The Olympic Summer Games are not the only Olympic Games. There are also the Olympic Winter Games and the Paralympic Games. The Olympic Winter Games are held every 4 years but in a different year from the Summer Games. The first Winter Games were held in 1924. The Paralympic Games are held in the same year as the Summer Games. They first began in 1960.

Host Cities

The Olympic Summer Games are held every 4 years. The Games take place in a host city.

In 1896, Athens, Greece, was the host city for the first modern Olympic Summer Games. Since then, there have been over 20 different host cities.

The 100-meter race at the 1896 Games



Olympic Host Cities

Host cities are announced many years before they hold the Olympic Games. In 2012, the host city is London.

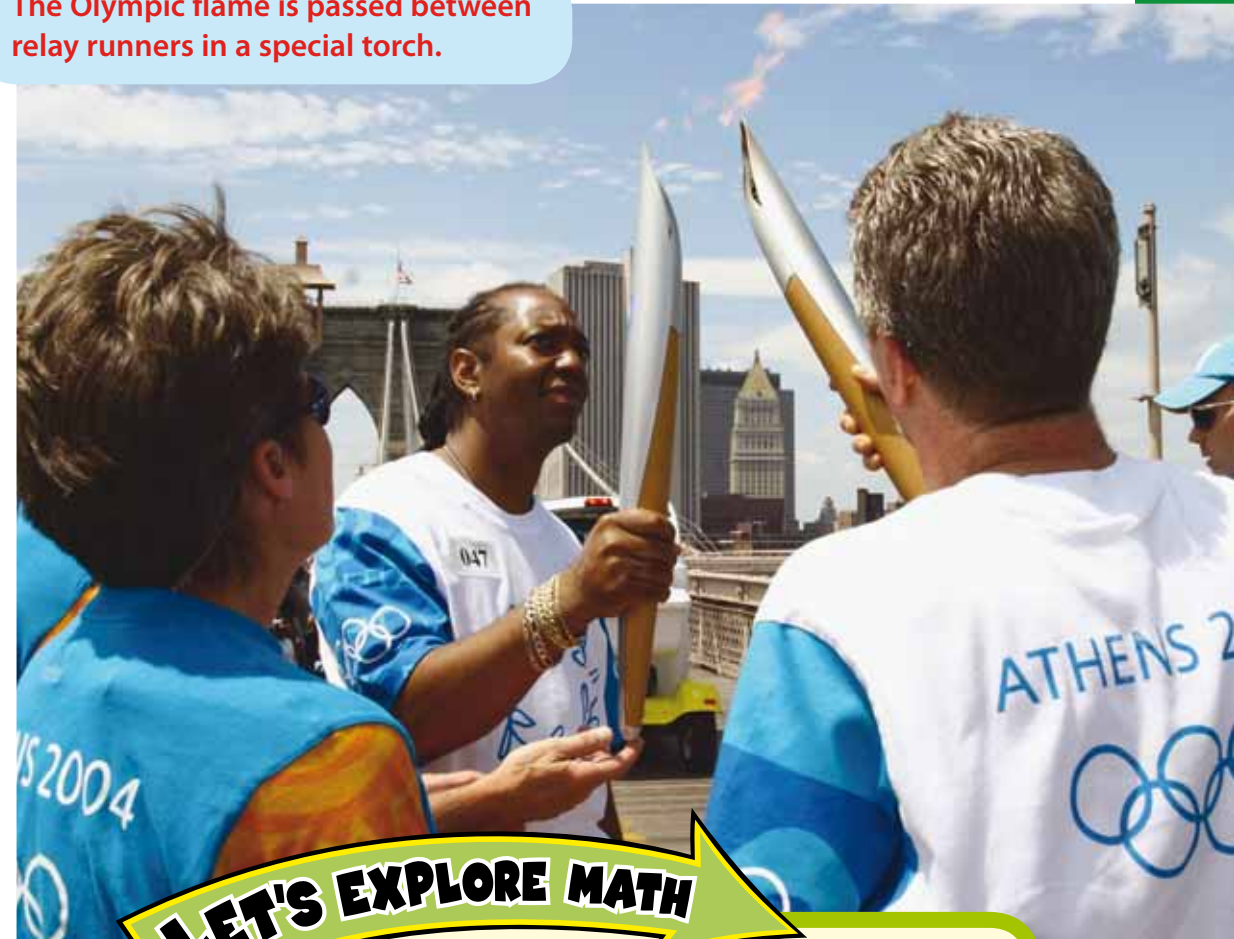


Tower Bridge in London, England

The Olympic Flame

The Olympic flame goes to the city hosting the Games. The flame is first lit in Olympia, the site of the ancient Olympic Games. Then it travels to the host city by **relay**.

The Olympic flame is passed between relay runners in a special torch.



LET'S EXPLORE MATH

The city of Los Angeles, California, has hosted the Games twice. The first time was in 1932. The second time was 52 years later. What year was this?