

The Commonwealth Games

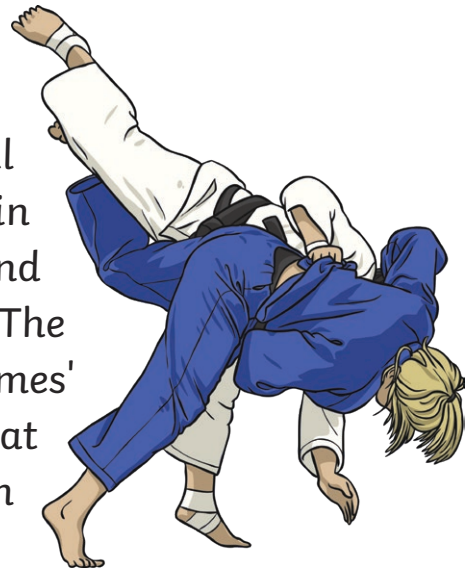
What Are The Commonwealth Games?

The Commonwealth Games are a sporting event held by The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF). Athletes from countries that are part of the Commonwealth of Nations can take part. It is the third largest sporting event after the Olympics.

Just like the Olympics, a different country is chosen to host the Games every four years and thousands of athletes from all over the world take part. In the past, the Games have been held in London, Wales, Scotland, India and Jamaica.

The 2022 Commonwealth Games

In 2022, The Commonwealth Games will take place from 28th July - 8th August in different places all over Birmingham and the West Midlands. It will be called The 'Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games' and the main events will take place at Birmingham Arena, Edgbaston Stadium and Sutton Park.



Birmingham will welcome around 5,000 athletes and teams from 72 Commonwealth nations and territories. There are 20 sports and eight para sports. For the first time in The Games' history, there will be more women's events than men's.

What Are the Sports?

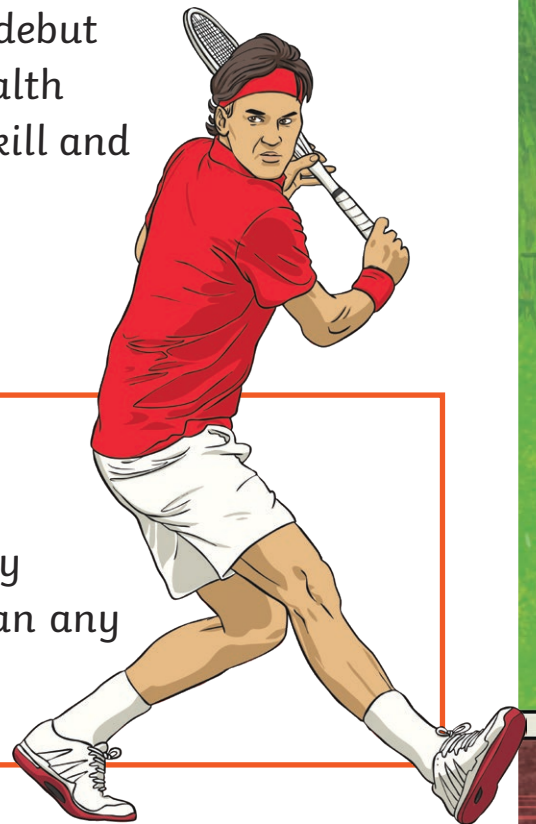
These are just a few of the sports that are included:

- **Badminton** – Players use rackets to hit a shuttlecock across a net. Badminton is one of the few mixed events in the Games, with men and women playing together.
- **Netball** – This sport is played by two teams of seven players. The ball must be passed from player to player within three seconds!

- **Rugby Sevens** – This sport is a kind of rugby played with two teams of seven players playing seven minute halves.
- **Squash** – This is a ball sport played by two (singles) or four (doubles) players. The small rubber ball travels at speeds of up to 280km per hour!
- **Swimming** – This sport will take place in the Sandwell Aquatics centre. There are four different strokes: freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke and butterfly.
- **Wheelchair Basketball** – Making its debut appearance at The 2022 Commonwealth Games, this is a fast paced game of skill and physicality with teams of 3.

Did You Know...?

Australia have hosted The Commonwealth Games five times. They have hosted the Games more times than any other nation.



Questions

1. The athletes are from countries that are part of what? Tick **one**.

- the Commonwealth of Countries
 the United Kingdom
 the Commonwealth of Nations
 the United Nations

2. Where have the Games **not** been held in the past? Tick **one**.

- London
 France
 India
 Jamaica

3. Draw lines to match the sports with the descriptions.

netball

players hit a shuttlecock across a net

swimming

played by two teams of seven players

badminton

happens in a pool

4. Which country has hosted the Games the most? Tick **one**.

- Australia
 the United Kingdom
 India
 Jamaica

5. Fill in the missing words in this sentence:

The Commonwealth Games are similar to the Olympics because a _____ country is chosen to host the Games every _____ years.

6. Find and copy the word that means men and women playing together.

7. Which sport would you have most liked to take part in? Give **two** reasons.

Answers

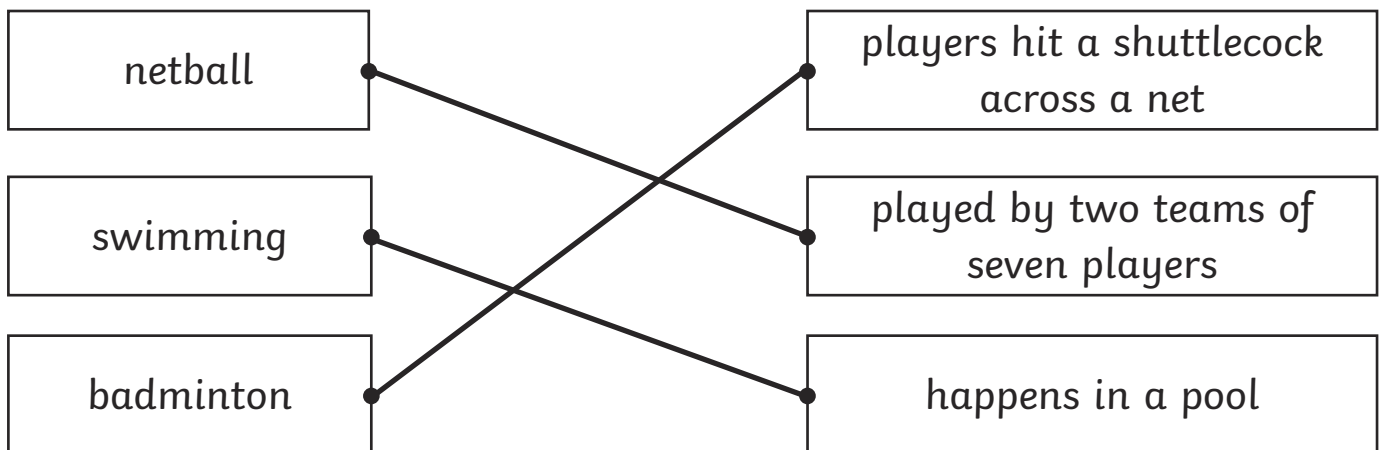
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2. Where have the Games **not** been held in the past? Tick **one**.

- London
 France
 India
 Jamaica

3. Draw lines to match the sports with the descriptions.



4. Which country has hosted the Games the most? Tick **one**.

- Australia**
 the United Kingdom
 India
 Jamaica

5. Fill in the missing words in this sentence:

The Commonwealth Games are similar to the Olympics because a **different** country is chosen to host the Games every **four** years.

6. Find and copy the word that means men and women playing together.
mixed

7. Which sport would you have most liked to take part in? Give **two** reasons.
Pupils' own responses, such as: I would most like to take part in netball because I like fast-paced games and I think that passing the ball within three seconds would be a challenge that I would like to have a go at.

The Commonwealth Games

What Are The Commonwealth Games?

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Just like the Olympics, a different country is chosen to host the games every four years and thousands of athletes from all over the world take part. In the past, the games have been held in London, Wales, Scotland, India and Jamaica.

The 2022 Commonwealth Games

In 2022, The Commonwealth Games will take place from 28th July - 8th August 2022 in different places all over Birmingham and the West Midlands. It will be called The 'Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games' and the main events will take place at Birmingham Arena, Edgbaston Stadium and Sutton Park.



Birmingham will welcome around 5,000 athletes and teams from 72 Commonwealth nations and territories. There will be 20 sports and eight sports for athletes with impairments (called para sports). For the first time in The Games' history, there will be more women's events than men's.

What Are the Sports?

These are just a few of the sports that are included:

- **Athletics** – This sport combines running, jumping and throwing. Athletics started in Ancient Greece as a competition to test the limits of human performance.
- **Badminton** – Players use rackets to hit a shuttlecock across a net. Badminton is one of the few mixed events in the games, with men and women competing together.

- **Boxing** – This sport has different categories: from the Light Flyweight division for the boxers who weigh 46-49kg to the Super Heavyweight division for boxers above 91kg.
- **Netball** – This sport is played by two teams of seven players. The ball must be passed from player to player within three seconds!
- **Rugby Sevens** – This sport is a variety of rugby played with two teams of seven players playing seven minute halves.
- **Squash** – This is a ball sport played by two (singles) or four (doubles) players. The small rubber ball travels at speeds of up to 280km per hour!
- **Swimming** – This sport will take place in the Sandwell Aquatics Centre. There are four different strokes: freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke and butterfly.
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Did You Know...?

The Commonwealth Games used to be called the British Commonwealth Games. It changed its name in 1978.

Our Queen is head of state in 15 of the 54 nations competing.

The Gold Coast 2018 Games was the fifth time Australia hosted the Commonwealth Games. They have hosted the games more times than any other nation.



Questions

1. What do the letters letters The CGF stand for? Tick **one**.

- The Common Gaming Forum
- The Commonwealth Games Federation
- The Countries Gather Friends
- The Commonwealth Green Family

2. Draw lines to match the sports with the descriptions.

badminton

started in Ancient Greece

squash

one of the few sports in the games that men and women play together

Athletics

The ball can travel up to 280km per hour.

3. What does competitive mean? Tick **one**.

- very easy
- involves cheating
- involves a competition
- very difficult

4. Which country has hosted the Games more than any other? Tick **one**.

- India
- Australia
- Jamaica
- the United Kingdom

5. Find and copy the word that means sports for athletes with impairments.

6. Fill in the missing words in this sentence:

Before 1978, The Commonwealth Games were called the _____
Commonwealth Games. Some of the nations that compete are still ruled
by The _____.

7. What is different about the number of women's and men's events
in 2022?

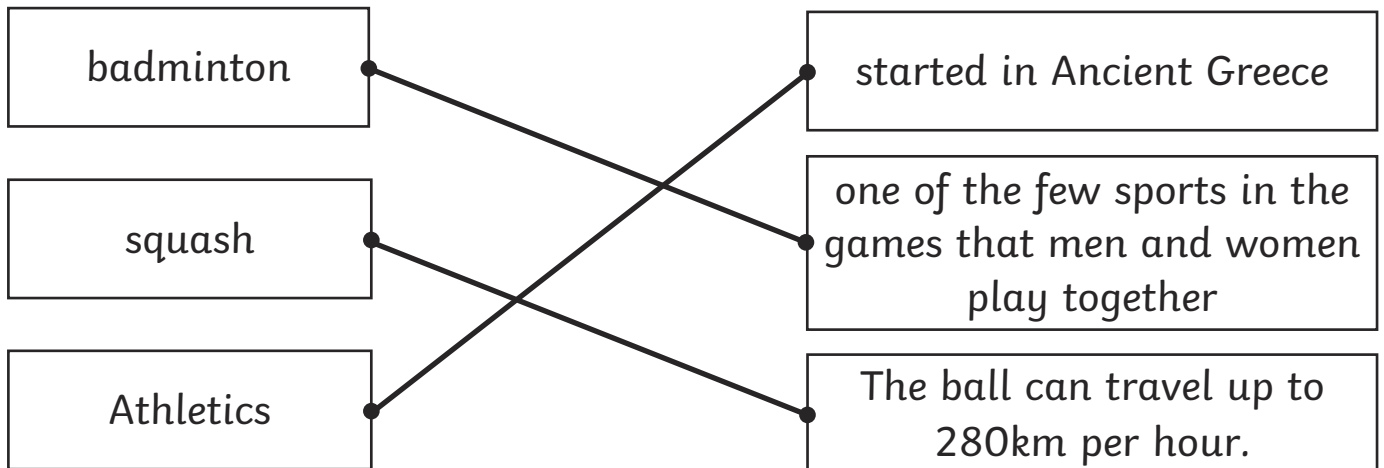
8. Which sport would you you have most liked to compete in and which one
would you not have liked to compete in? Give a reason for **both**.

Answers

1. What do the letters The CGF stand for? Tick **one**.

- The Common Gaming Forum
- The Commonwealth Games Federation**
- The Countries Gather Friends
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- India
- Australia**
- Jamaica
- the United Kingdom

5. Find and copy the word that means sports for athletes with impairments.
para sports

6. Fill in the missing words in this sentence:

Before 1978, The Commonwealth Games were called the **British** Commonwealth Games. Some of the nations that compete are still ruled by The **Queen**.

7. What is different about the number of women's and men's events in 2022?

For the first time in The Games' history, there will be more women's events than men's.

8. Which sport would you have most liked to compete in and which one would you not have liked to compete in? Give a reason for **both**.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I would have most liked to compete in swimming because this is different from the other sports given that it is in water. I would have most liked to compete in boxing because I think this sport could be risky.

The Commonwealth Games

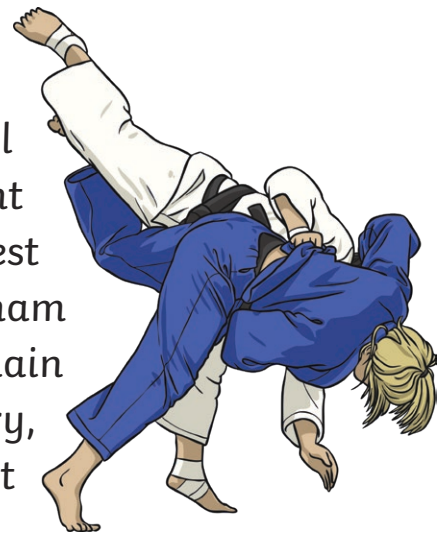
Background to The Commonwealth Games

The Commonwealth Games are a competitive sporting event held by the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF). Athletes from countries that are part of the Commonwealth of Nations can compete. It is the third largest international sporting event after the Olympics.

As with the Olympics, a different country bids to host the games every four years and thousands of athletes from all over the world compete. In the past, the games have been held in London, Wales, Scotland, India and Jamaica.

The 2022 Commonwealth Games

In 2022, The Commonwealth Games will take place 28th July - 8th August in different locations around Birmingham and the West Midlands. It will be called the 'Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games' and the main event cities will be Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Wolverhampton, amongst others.



Birmingham will welcome more than 5,000 athletes and teams from 72 Commonwealth nations and territories. There are 20 sports and eight para sports.

What Are the Sports?

These are some of the 16 core sports and 4 para sports of The Commonwealth Games:

- **Athletics and Para Athletics** – This sport combines running, jumping and throwing. Athletics originated in Ancient Greece as a competition to test the limits of human performance.

- **Badminton** – This is a sport played using racquets to hit a shuttlecock across a net. Badminton originated in Asia. It is one of the few mixed events in the games, with men and women competing together.
- **Boxing** – This sport has different categories: from the Light Flyweight division for the boxers who weigh 46-49kg to the Super Heavyweight division for boxers above 91kg.
- **Hockey** – In this team sport, two teams of 18 players use sticks to score goals. The game lasts for 60 minutes.
- **Lawn Bowls** – In this outdoor sport, players compete to roll a ball as close as they can to a smaller ball called a 'jack'. Players compete in singles, pairs, triples or fours.
- **Netball** – This sport is played by two teams of seven players. The ball must be passed from player to player within three seconds.
- **Rugby Sevens** – This sport is a variety of rugby played with two teams of seven players playing seven minute halves.
- **Squash** – This is a ball sport played by two (singles) or four (doubles) players. The small rubber ball travels at speeds of up to 280km per hour!
- **Swimming and Para Swimming** – This sport will take place at the Sandwell Aquatic Centre. There are four different strokes: freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke and butterfly.



- **Weightlifting** – In this sport athletes attempt to lift a 'barbell' loaded with plates of different weights. Each competitor has three attempts to make a successful lift.

Glossary

Commonwealth of Nations – An organisation of 56 states that were once all part of the British Empire and ruled by The Queen. Once called 'The British Commonwealth'.

para sports – Sports designed to be played by a person with an impairment.

racquet – A piece of sports equipment with a handle and a hoop used for hitting a ball.

barbell – A long metal bar with weights attached to each end.

Questions

1. 'In 2022, The Commonwealth Games will take place 28th July - 8th August in different locations around Birmingham and the West Midlands.'

What does the word **locations** mean? Tick **one**.

- buildings
- places
- cities
- the countryside

2. Draw lines to match the sports with the descriptions.

There are several categories in boxing, including:

In lawn bowls, players compete

Originating in Ancient Greece,

Athletics combines running, jumping and throwing.

Light Flyweight and Super Heavyweight.

in singles, pairs, triples or fours.

3. Name the four different strokes in swimming:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

4. Fill in the missing words in this sentence:

There are 20 different sports and eight sports for _____ with _____.

5. Find and copy a word that shows you Birmingham is happy to greet the athletes and teams and make them feel at home.

6. What do you think the benefits of the The Commonwealth Games could be?

7. Why do you think the Commonwealth of Nations used to have a different name?

8. Why do you think the writer has included a **glossary**? Choose another word from the text that you would add to the glossary and write a definition for it.

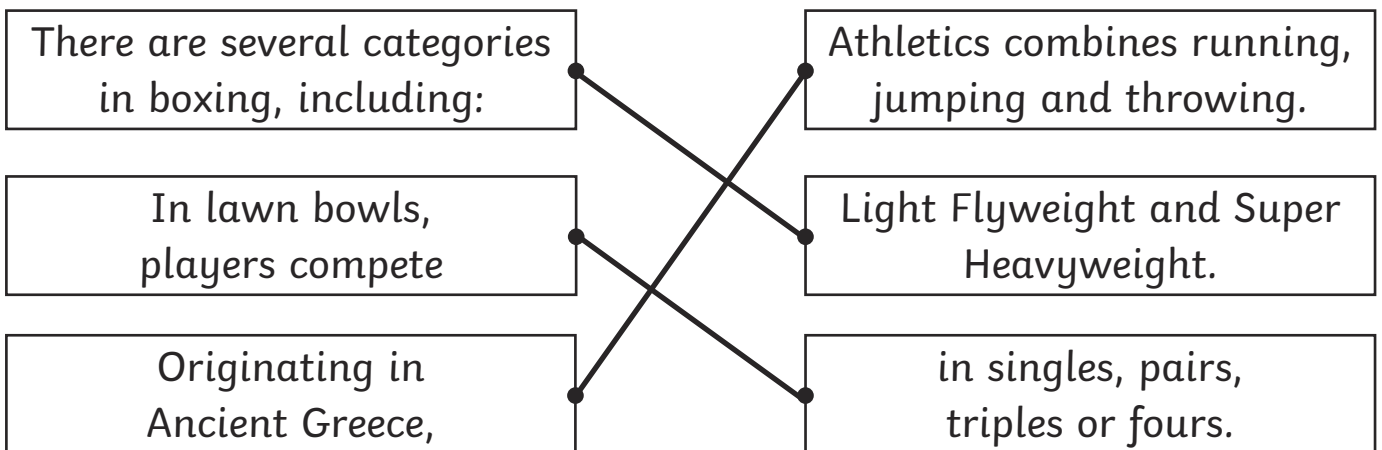
Answers

1. 'In 2022, The Commonwealth Games will take place 28th July - 8th August in different locations around Birmingham and the West Midlands.'

What does the word **locations** mean? Tick **one**.

- buildings
- places**
- cities
- the countryside

2. Draw lines to match the sports with the descriptions.



3. Name the four different strokes in swimming:
freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke, butterfly
4. Fill in the missing words in this sentence:
There are 20 different sports and eight sports for **athletes** with **impairments**.
5. Find and copy a word that shows you Birmingham is happy to greet the athletes and teams and make them feel at home.
welcome

6. What do you think the benefits of The Commonwealth Games could be?
Accept any suitable answer, such as: I think the benefits of The Commonwealth Games could be that more people take up a sport after watching the games and that different countries come together in the same competition which could encourage team work.
7. Why do you think the Commonwealth of Nations used to have a different name?
I think it used to be called The British Commonwealth because the states were once all part of the British Empire and ruled by The Queen.
8. Why do you think the writer has included a glossary? Choose another word from the text that you would add to the glossary and write a definition for it.
**I think the writer has included a glossary because the reader might need to look up or check what some of the words mean.
Accept any suitable word and definition to add to the glossary, such as:
Bids – To offer to do something.**