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The Summer Olympic Games is an international sporting event held every four years. The Olympics were first staged in 776 B.C., for one day, and included running and equestrian events. The modern Olympics date to 1896. The London 2012 Summer Olympics will feature 26 events: triathlon, rowing, sailing, shooting, archery, judo, modern pentathlon, canoe/kayak, swimming and diving, track and field, equestrian, gymnastics, taekwondo, tennis, wrestling, boxing, table tennis, handball, field hockey, weightlifting, badminton, soccer, basketball, volleyball, cycling and fencing. Every four years the greatest athletes in the world participate in the Summer Olympics. In 2012, the Summer Olympics host city will be London, England. Thousands of athletes participate in 26 Summer Olympics sports. Within each sport are several team and individual events. Here is a list of all 26 Summer Olympics sports and a further breakdown of the events within three of the most popular sports, athletics, swimming, and gymnastics.

The Olympic Games are considered by many athletes to be the pinnacle of their sports. While there are some professional athletes who compete in the Olympics, most of the competitors are amateurs. The Olympic Games feature several well-known, high-profile sports, while also including many lesser-known sports that do not receive much attention. The Olympic Games inspire peace and unity around the world. The athletic events also make a fitting theme for kids activities. Whether the Olympic activities are used in a classroom, in a homeschool setting or just for fun, they go beyond simply watching the Olympic events. The kids delve into the background of the Olympics and use them as inspiration for entertaining activities.

London's official bid for the 2012 Olympic Games was made on January 16, 2004. After 18 months of preparation, inspection and presentation, it was announced on July 6, 2005, that London was to be the host city, beating Paris by 54 votes to 50. The London 2012 Games will take place from July 27 to August 12, 2012, followed by the Paralympics Games from August 29 to September 9, 2012.

The history of the Olympic Games in London goes back to 1908, when the city stood in as host for Rome after an eruption of Mount Vesuvius. The White City Olympic Stadium was built that year especially for the Games. The 1908 Games involved 22 nations, 2,008 athletes (of which only 37 were women) and 110 events. In 1948, London became a last-minute host for the second time, after World War II. New features of the Games in 1948 included starting blocks for the sprinting events and television broadcast of the Games.

The London 2012 Games will take place at several venues in the Olympic Park, throughout London and outside the city. The Olympic Park will have an aquatics centre, basketball arena, hockey centre and Olympic Stadium. The Olympic Stadium, which will have a capacity of 80,000, will be the venue for the athletic and Paralympics athletic events and the opening and closing ceremonies. Venues within London include Earls Court, Greenwich Park, Hyde Park, Lord's Cricket Ground, Wembley Arena, Wembley Stadium and Wimbledon. Venues outside the city include City of Coventry Stadium, Hampden Park in Glasgow, Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, Old Trafford in Manchester and St. James' Park in Newcastle.

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