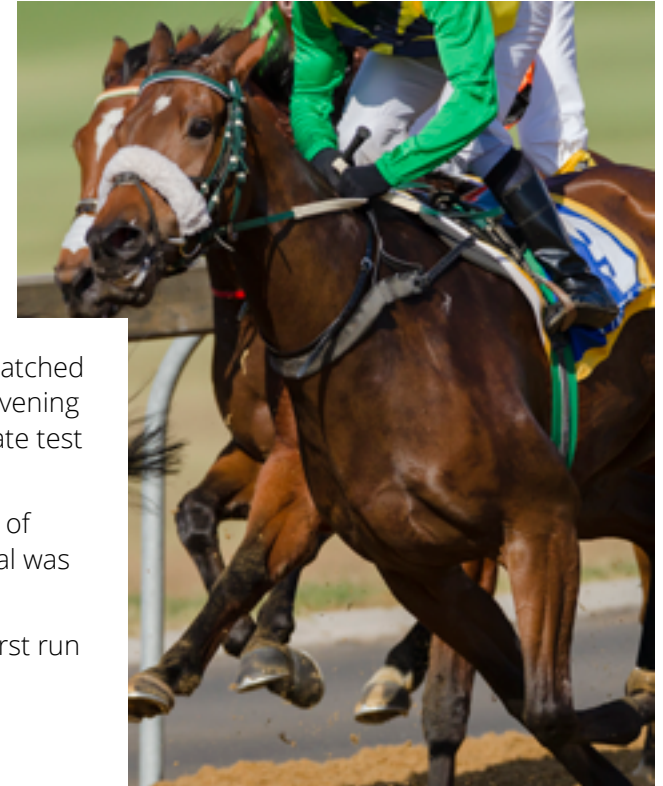




Red Rum's third Grand National win



Red Rum (7 May 1965 – 18 October 1995) was a champion Thoroughbred steeplechaser. He achieved an unmatched historic treble when he won the Grand National in 1973, 1974 and 1977, and also came second in the two intervening years, 1975 and 1976. The Grand National is a notoriously difficult race that has been described as “the ultimate test of a horse’s courage”. He was also renowned for his jumping ability, having not fallen in 100 races.

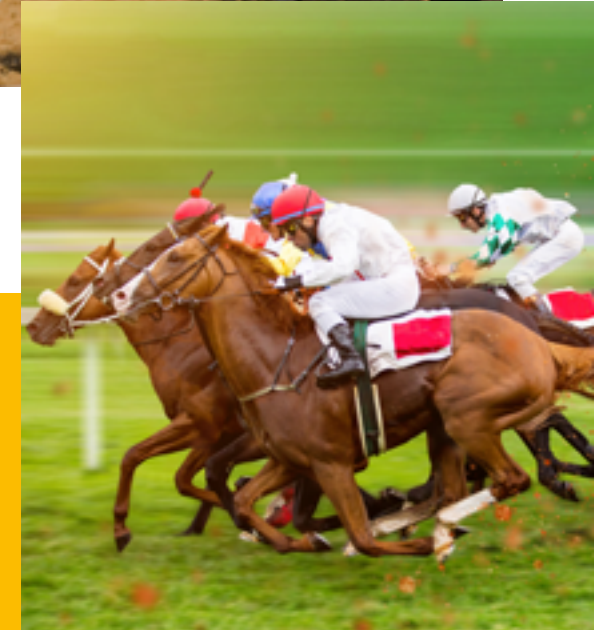
The 1973 race in which Red Rum secured his comeback victory from 30 lengths behind is often considered one of the greatest Grand Nationals in history. In a 2002 UK poll, Red Rum’s historic third triumph in the Grand National was voted the 24th greatest sporting moment of all time.[5]

The **Grand National** is a National Hunt horse race held annually at Aintree Racecourse in Liverpool, England. First run in 1839, it is a handicap steeplechase over an official distance of about 4 miles and 2½ furlongs (4 miles 514 yards (6.907 km)), with horses jumping 30 fences over two laps. It is the most valuable jump race in Europe, with a prize fund of £1 million in 2021. An event that is prominent in British culture, the race is popular amongst many people who do not normally watch or bet on horse racing at other times of the year.

An estimated 500 to 600 million people watch the Grand National in over 140 countries. The race has also been broadcast on radio since 1927.

Answers:

1. Red Rum was 30 years old.
2. It means he won the Grand National three times.
3. Lots of horses fall as the jumps are so high.
4. 30 lengths means 30 times the length of a horse, typically around 2.5m.
5. Aintree is in Liverpool, which also has a famous football team. The Beatles also came from Liverpool.
6. 1839 was 182 years ago.
7. A furlong is 220 yards long, which is an eighth of a mile.
8. The prize money is £1,000,000—one million pounds.
9. Probability
10. 500,000,000 out of 8,000,000,000 is roughly 1/16 of the Earth’s population.



The 2003 Rugby World Cup



The **2003 Rugby World Cup** was the fifth Rugby World Cup and was won by England. Originally planned to be co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand, all games were shifted to Australia following a contractual dispute over ground signage rights between the New Zealand Rugby Union and Rugby World Cup Limited.

The tournament began with host nation Australia defeating Argentina 24–8 at Stadium Australia in Sydney. Australia went on to defeat New Zealand 22–10 in the semi-final, to play England in the final. Along with a try to Jason Robinson, Jonny Wilkinson kicked four penalties and then a drop-goal in extra time to win the game 20–17 for England, who became the first northern hemisphere team to win the Webb Ellis Cup.

The overall stadium capacity was 421,311 across 11 venues. This was a reduction from the 1999 Rugby World Cup in Wales (with games also held in England, France, Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland) which had a total capacity of 654,677 across 18 venues.

Twenty teams qualified for the 2003 Rugby World Cup. Of the 20 teams, eight of those places were automatically filled by the teams that reached the quarter-final stages in 1999, including hosts and world champions Australia and did not have to play any qualification matches. A record 81 nations from five continents were involved in the qualification process designed to fill the remaining 12 spots, which began on 23 September 2000.

Answers:

1. 2003 was 18 years ago.
2. England.
3. Australia.
4. 20 teams qualified.
5. 81 nations took part in the qualification process.
6. 654,677 across 18 venues.
7. Eight teams.
8. Four teams.
9. Jonny Wilkinson.
10. First team to come from a country that is North of the Equator.

The 2012 London Olympics

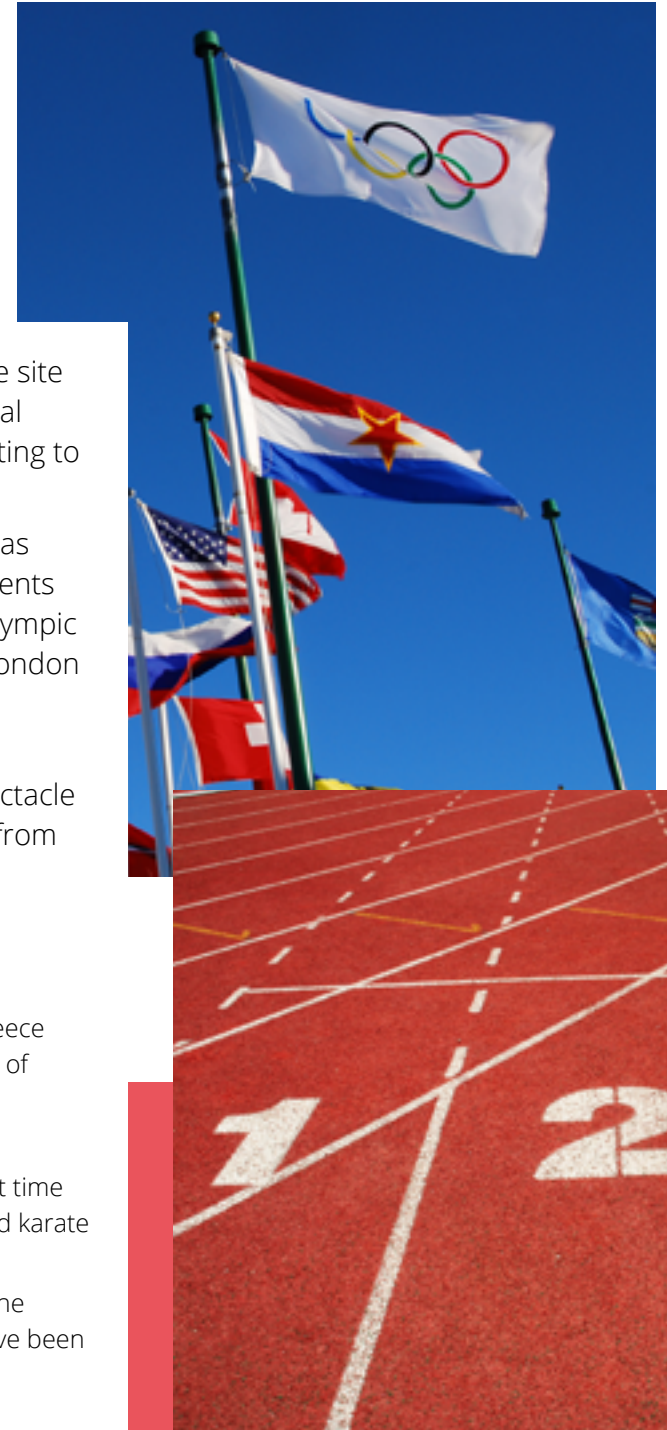
In 2012 London became the first city to host the modern Games three times, having previously been the site of the 1908 and 1948 Olympic Games. The city was chosen as the 2012 host in a close 2005 International Olympic Committee (IOC) election, beating runner-up Paris (the heavy favourite, which also was attempting to become the first three-time host) by four votes.

The record for the total number of participating countries —204— at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games was equalled in London. The London Games featured more than 10,500 athletes who participated in 302 events in 36 sports. The most-notable addition to the London program was women's boxing, which made its Olympic debut in three weight classes (51 kg [112 pounds], 60 kg [132 pounds], and 75 kg [165 pounds]). The London Games were also the first Olympiad wherein each participating country had at least one female athlete competing.

The London Games' opening ceremonies proved to be one of the festival's highlights. The elaborate spectacle (devised by film director Danny Boyle) depicted the cultural and social history of Britain and drew raves from attendees and television viewers, who were treated to an unexpected comic turn by Queen Elizabeth II.

Answers:

1. Because it brings a lot of money to the country, as well as a boost to the sporting and tourism industries.
2. The five rings represent the five continents that take part—Africa, Asia, America, Europe and Oceania.
3. London is the capital of the United Kingdom, and is around 80 miles from Salisbury.
4. Most of the events took place in and around London, but the sailing events took place in Weymouth, on the South Coast.
5. Because the Covid pandemic prevented the 2020 games taking place.
6. 204 countries took part.
7. The ancient Olympics were staged in Olympia, Greece from 776 BC to 393 AD, and were held in hon-our of Zeus.
8. Athens, Greece in 1896.
9. Women's boxing was an Olympic sport for the first time in 2021. Skateboarding, surfing, sport climbing and karate were added in 2020.
10. The Queen parachuted out of an aeroplane into the stadium during the opening ceremony. (It may have been a stuntwoman dressed up as her...).





The 1966 World Cup

The **1966 FIFA World Cup** was the eighth FIFA World Cup, a quadrennial football tournament for men's senior national teams. It was played in England from 11 July to 30 July 1966. England defeated West Germany 4–2 in the final to win their first and only ever title; the match had finished at 2–2 after 90 minutes and went to extra time, when Geoff Hurst scored two goals to complete his hat-trick, the first (and as of 2021, only) to be scored in a World Cup final, with a handful of spectators wandering on to the pitch during the fourth goal. England were the fifth nation to win the event, and the third host nation to win after Uruguay in 1930 and Italy in 1934. Brazil were the defending champions, but they failed to progress from the group stage.

Two debut teams performed well at the competition – North Korea beat Italy 1–0 on the way to reaching the quarter-finals, where they lost to Portugal 5–3. Portugal themselves finished third, losing 2–1 to England in the semi-final. Portuguese striker Eusébio was the tournament's top scorer, with nine goals clinching the golden boot with three goals more than second placed Helmut Haller.

The 1966 World Cup was the first FIFA World Cup held in the English-speaking world. Matches were played at eight stadiums across England, with the final being held at Wembley Stadium, which had a capacity of 98,600. The 1966 event featured the highest number of teams of any international tournament to date, with 70 nations participating. 31 African nations boycotted the World Cup, having objected to the number of guaranteed placings at the finals.

Answers:

1. Because it's the only time that England won.
2. 55 years ago.
3. Four goals.
4. A hat trick is when one player scores three goals in a match.
5. 1930, 1934, 1938, 1950, 1954.
6. World War 2 prevented the 1942 and 1946 World Cup tournaments from taking place.
7. Debut performance means its the first time that they have taken part.
8. The capacity of Wembley stadium is 98,600.
 $1350/98600 \times 100 = 1.4\%$ full.
9. 70 nations took part.
10. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

