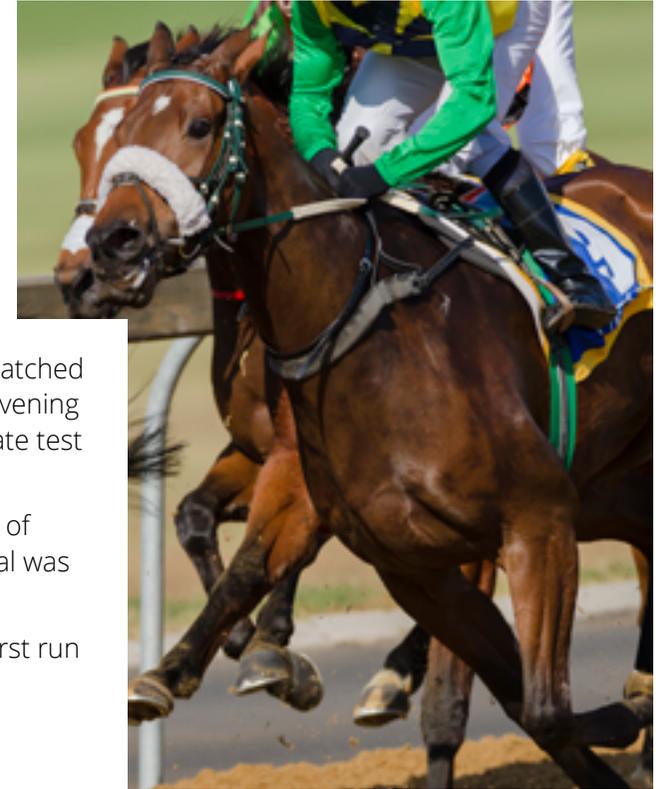




Red Rum's third Grand National win



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.

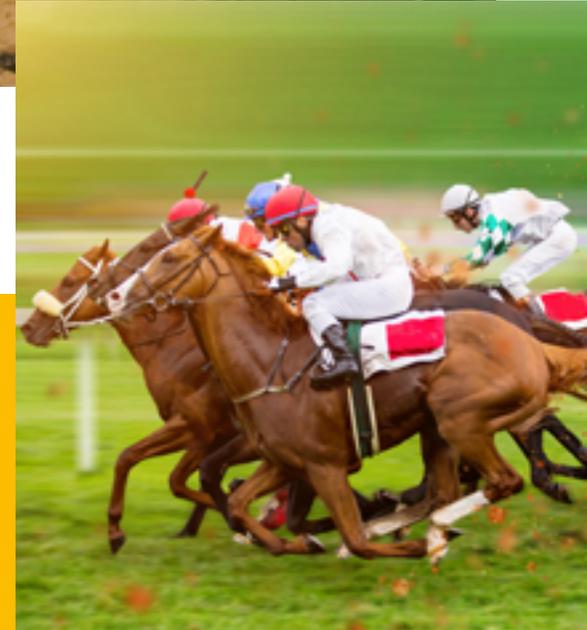
The 1973 race in which Red Rum secured his comeback victory from 30 lengths behind is often considered one of the greatest Grand Nationals in history. In a 2002 UK poll, Red Rum's historic third triumph in the Grand National was voted the 24th greatest sporting moment of all time.[5]

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.

Questions:

1. Roughly how old was Red Rum when he died?
2. He achieved an historic treble? What does this mean?
3. Why is it so impressive that he hadn't fallen in 100 races? (Look at the jumps!)
4. In 1973 he 'came back from 30 lengths behind'. What does this mean? What is a length in this context?
5. Which city is Aintree Racecourse in? Do you know anything else about this city?
6. The Grand National started in 1839. How many years ago was this?
7. How long is a furlong? What fraction of a mile?
8. How much money does the winner get? Write this out in numbers and words.
9. People bet on horse races based on the probability of a horse winning—what is this area of Maths called?
10. The population of the Earth is around 8 billion. Roughly what percentage of the Earth's population watched the Grand national?



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.

Questions:

1. How long ago was 2003?
2. Who won the 2003 Rugby world cup?
3. Which country hosted the tournament?
4. How many teams qualified for the world cup?
5. How many countries took part in the qualification process?
6. What was the capacity of all the stadiums in the tournament?
7. How many teams make it to the quarter finals?
8. How many teams make it to the semi-finals?
9. Who scored the drop goal in extra time that won the game?
10. England were the first northern hemisphere country to win; what does this mean?



The 2012 London Olympics

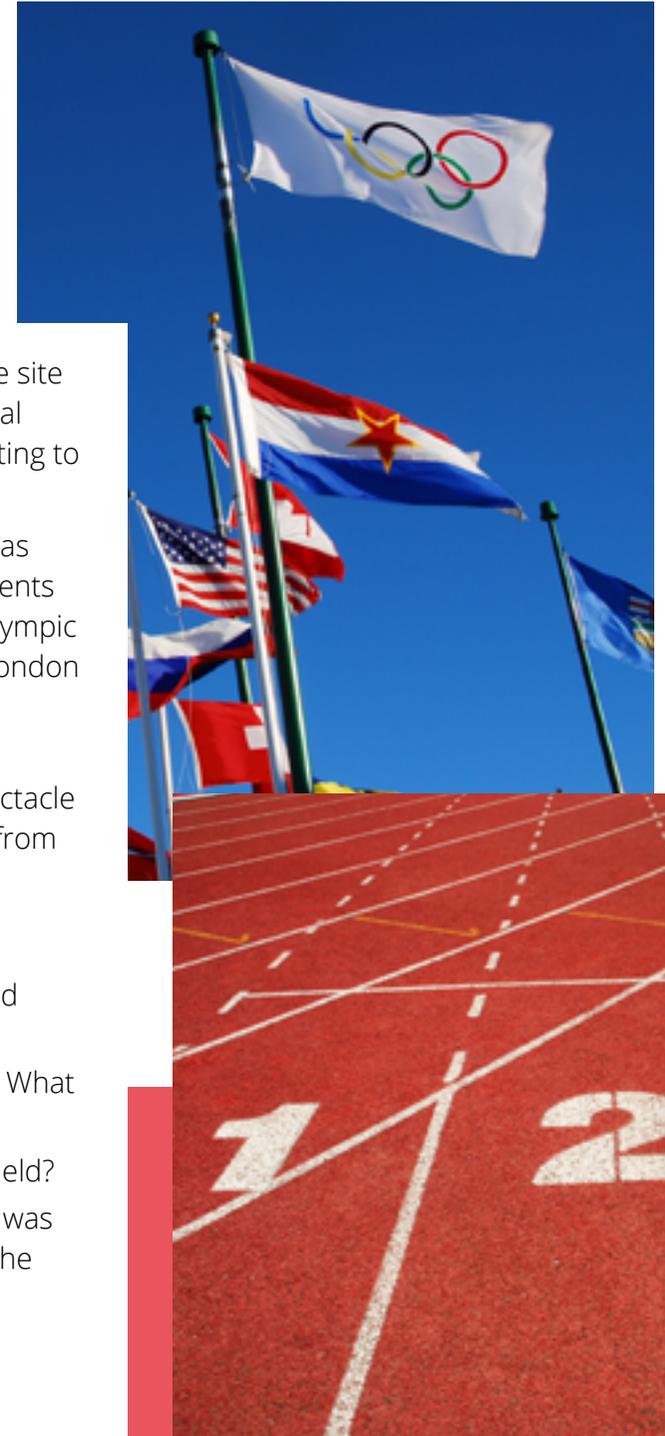
In 2012 London became the first city to host the modern Games three times, having previously been the site of the 1908 and 1948 Olympic Games. The city was chosen as the 2012 host in a close 2005 International Olympic Committee (IOC) election, beating runner-up Paris (the heavy favourite, which also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

Questions:

1. London became the first city to host the Olympics three times, and was in close competition with Paris. Why is there such fierce competition to host the games?
2. The Olympic symbol is 5 rings. Why?
3. Where is London? How far from where we are?
4. Do you think all events took place in London? What about the sailing events?
5. Why was the 2020 Tokyo Olympics actually held in 2021?
6. How many countries took part in Beijing and London Olympics?
7. Why do we refer to the 'modern' Olympics? What were the older ones called?
8. Where were the first ever Olympic games held?
9. What was the most notable new sport that was added to the 2012 Olympics? What about the 2021 Tokyo Olympics?
10. What did the Queen do at the Opening Ceremony?!





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.

Questions:

1. Why is the 1966 World Cup final still famous today?
2. How long ago was 1966?
3. How many goals had been scored after 90 minutes had been played?
4. Geoff Hurst scored a hat-trick. What does this mean?
5. 1966 was the eighth FIFA World Cup. They are every four years, so when do you think the first one was? Write out the dates. Check answers to the first five questions now.
6. What do you think happened to mean that the World Cup couldn't go ahead every four years?
7. Two debut teams performed well—what does debut mean?
8. What is the capacity of Wembley stadium. If all students from our school attended, the stadium would be what percentage full?
9. How many countries took part?
10. Who is presenting the medals in the black and white photo?

