Olympic History

The games were held every four years during August and September and the word "Olympiad", which referred to the four year intervals between competitions, was commonly used to measure time. The first documented Olympic champion was a man named Coroebus, a cook from Elis who won the sprint race in 776 BC. Historians believe that the games had already existed for at least 500 years prior to that date. The Olympic Games originally featured only one event: a race called the "stade", equal to a distance of about 210 yards. By 728 BC two additional races had been added, comparable to the 400 meter and 1,500 meter races of the modern games. The Olympics came to include wrestling, boxing and the pentathlon, as well as specialized events for soldiers and heralds. It was only in 472 BC that the events were spread out over a period of four to five days, previously they had all taken place on a single day.

**SITES OF THE SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES**

1896 - Athens, Greece

1900 - Paris, France

1904 - St. Louis, Missouri USA

1906 - Athens, Greece

1908 - London, England

1912 - Stockholm, Sweden

1916 - Not held (World War I)

1920 - Antwerp, Belgium

1924 - Paris, France

1928 - Amsterdam, Holland

1932 - Los Angeles, California USA

1936 - Berlin, Germany

1940 - Not held (World War II)

1944 - Not held (World War II)

1948 - London, England

1952 - Helsinki, Finland

1956 - Melbourne, Australia

1960 - Rome, Italy

1964 - Tokyo, Japan

1968 - Mexico City, Mexico

1972 - Munich, Germany

1976 - Montreal, Canada

1980 - Moscow, Russia

1984 - Los Angeles, California USA

1988 - Seoul, South Korea

1992 - Barcelona, Spain

1996 - Atlanta, Georgia USA

2000 - Sydney, Australia

2004 - Athens, Greece

2008 - Beijing, China

2012 - London, England