

# Introduction

We hope you will enjoy these simple games and activities and that they will not only get your class geared up for the Olympics, but that they'll learn some French too.

## The Olympic sports

We have chosen the 33 major Olympic sports as the vocabulary for this topic.

Many of these sports are subdivided into several events:

- ❖ Athletics is the largest Olympic sport, with 48 different medal events.
- ❖ There are five aquatic sports: swimming, synchronized swimming, diving, water polo and open water swimming.
- ❖ There are three equestrian disciplines: jumping, dressage and eventing.
- ❖ Gymnastics is actually three events: artistic gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics and trampolining.
- ❖ There are four cycling events: BMX, mountain bike, road and track.

The modern pentathlon is a two-day competition. It consists of five events: fencing, show jumping, swimming, pistol shooting and a 3km cross-country run. The modern pentathlon was invented by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympic Games. The event was first held at the 1912 Olympic Games.

The triathlon is also a multi-disciplinary event. It consists of a 1,500m swim, a 43km cycle race and a 10km run. The events are held one after the other, with no breaks in between events. In fact, the speed of changing from one event to the next can be crucial. The triathlon has only been an Olympic sport since 2000.

## Activities in this book

### France at the Olympics/France at the Paralympics

pages 7–8

Use the information on these sheets to help pupils improve their cultural understanding of France. Ask questions such as:

- ❖ France has hosted the Olympics five times. Can you find Paris, Chamonix, Grenoble and Albertville on a map of France?
- ❖ France has hosted the Winter Olympics three times, but Great Britain has never hosted the Winter Olympics. Why do you think this is? (Great Britain has only won 26 medals in total at the Winter Olympics, and none for alpine skiing.)
- ❖ French athletes have won the most medals for fencing, followed by cycling. Pupils could research which sports top the medal table for the UK (in terms of number of overall medals, the top five sports are: athletics – 205; cycling – 87; rowing – 68; sailing – 58; boxing – 56). Why are some sports more popular in some countries than in others?
- ❖ Only one French athlete was able to make it to the 1904 Olympic Games that were held in St Louis in the middle of the USA. Why do you suppose this is? (difficulty, length of time needed to travel in 1904). In fact, there is some dispute as to whether the one athlete was representing France or the United States! In comparison, there were three competitors from Great Britain at the 1904 Games.
- ❖ France's most successful Olympic Games was in 1900 when they hosted the games. What advantages are there to being the host nation?

See also information on the Olympic flag on page 62.

**Some famous French athletes** page 9

Pupils could research to find out more about these athletes and their sports. Are there any sports which they find surprising?

**Flashcards and picture flashcards** pages 11–24

Cut these up into flashcards and use them to play Pairs, Concentration and other games to practise the vocabulary. Many other ideas for using flashcards can be found in *100+ Fun Ideas for Practising Modern Foreign Languages in the Primary Classroom* (ISBN 978-1-903853-98-6).

**Colour in the pictures** pages 25–26

Use these sheets to introduce the vocabulary, or as useful reference sheets. Pupils can colour in the pictures and practise saying the words. The sheets could be cut into flashcards.

**Match the words** pages 27–29

Reinforce vocabulary by asking pupils to match the pictures to the French words.

**Design your own logos!** page 30

For each Olympic Games, a new set of logos for each sport is designed. The logos for the Tokyo 2020 games and for past games are easily found by searching images on the Internet. You could display some examples on the Interactive White Board prior to the task, to give pupils some ideas. They should be diagrammatic, easily recognizable pictures rather than detailed drawings.

**Word search** page 31

Reinforce the spelling of the vocabulary by getting them to find the words in the word search. Words can go horizontally, vertically or diagonally. None of the words have been written backwards.

**Solve the code** page 32

Pupils use the chart at the top of the page to solve the code and find each of the 33 sports. Note: pupils will need to add accents to the letters as appropriate.

**Unscramble the words** page 33

Pupils will practise spelling the words by unscrambling the letters to find the French sports.

**Crossword puzzles** pages 34–36

Pupils will demonstrate their ability to identify and correctly spell the new vocabulary by entering the correct French word for each of the corresponding images.

**'Loto' cards** pages 37–45

There are three types of card: words and pictures, pictures only and words only. For convenience, the words appear in the same place on all three sets of boards so that you can use them with mixed ability classes. When the pupils win, they could shout out « Loto ! ».

**Board game** page 46

This is a game for two players. Each pair will need a die and two small counters. Pupils take turns to roll the die. They count the number of spaces and say the word for the sport shown.

If they are unable to say the word, they must go back to where they were. In order to win the game, a play must throw the exact number to land at the end.

**Sentence-building activities/More sentence-building activities** pages 47–48

These sentence ideas are just a starting point, and it is hoped that you will build on them, depending on what vocabulary and sentence structures your pupils already know. See also 'Other teaching ideas' on pages 61–62.

**Quel est ton sport préféré ?** page 49

This mini-dialogue uses sentence structures introduced on page 48. After reading and translating the sheet, pupils could work in pairs to create their own mini-dialogue on their favourite Olympic sports. Encourage them to include reasons why. These could be performed in front of the class.

**Tu aimes le sport ?** page 50

This questionnaire will provide reading practice. At the bottom of the sheet there is room for pupils to write what their favourite sport is and why.

**Sondage : veux-tu jouer ?** page 51

**Sondage : quel sport pratiques-tu ?** page 52

These survey sheets enable pupils to practise their speaking and listening skills. Encourage them to use full sentences when asking their classmates what sports they like to play/do.

**Tableau des médailles des Jeux Olympiques d'été de 2016** page 53

This sheet will help pupils to practise saying numbers in French. They could work with a partner to try to figure out how to say all the numbers correctly. Encourage pupils to answer the questions using full sentences.

**Les Jeux Olympiques** page 54

**Les Paralympiques** page 55

**Le Japon** pages 56–57

**Le drapeau japonais** page 58

These sheets provide reading practice related to the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. Encourage pupils to answer the questions on Japan using full sentences.

**Ideas for incorporating French into PE lessons** page 59–60

Use the vocabulary and ideas here to link your sports-related learning in French to your PE lessons.

**Other teaching ideas** pages 61–62

Link your Olympics topic to other vocabulary your pupils have already learned. Suggestions are given for using vocabulary for days of the week, times of day, numbers, transport, weather and colours.