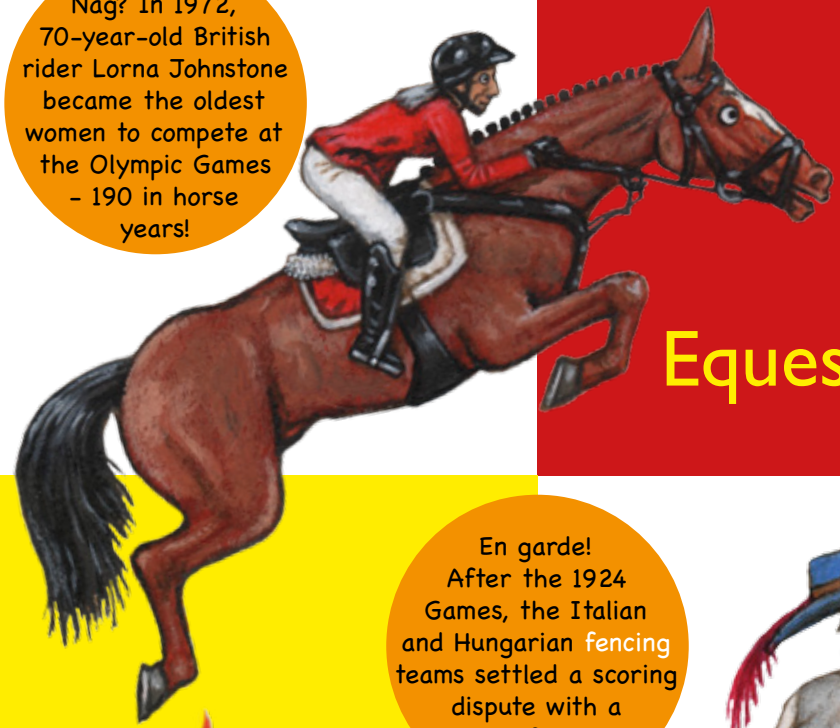
Old Nag? In 1972, 70-year-old British rider Lorna Johnstone became the oldest women to compete at the Olympic Games – 190 in horse years!

E

is for

Equestrian

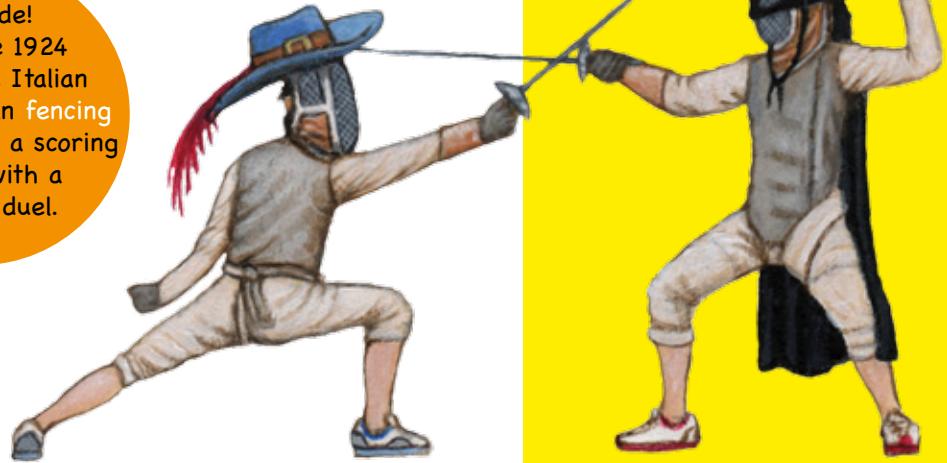




From zero to hero – Emperor Nero fell from his chariot at the Games in AD 67, but was declared the winner anyway.



En garde! After the 1924 Games, the Italian and Hungarian fencing teams settled a scoring dispute with a real-life duel.



F



is for

Flame

Pheidippides ran 42km from Marathon to Athens in 490 BC, with news of Greece's victory over Persia. The marathon is run over the same distance.

M is for Marathon

Lorz unto himself – in 1904, Fred Lorz was about to receive the gold medal when it was discovered that he'd travelled 17km of the marathon by car.



Nike, Greek goddess of victory, was sent by Zeus to crown the winners at the ancient games. She now appears on all Olympic medals.

N is for Nike

All athletes in Olympia competed in the nude. Only men took part and any married women caught watching were hurled from a cliff.



O is for Olympia

S is for Stadium



King of the swimmers – Johnny Weissmuller, star of Tarzan films, won five Olympic gold medals in swimming and set 67 world records in the 1920s.



A sport for men in the 1800s, synchronised swimming is now one of just two women-only Olympic events. The other is rhythmic gymnastics.

T is for Trampoline





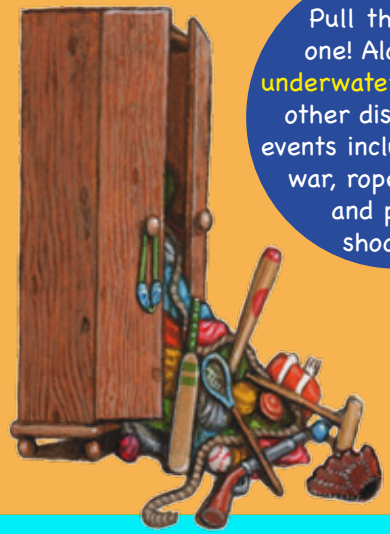
Trampolines were first used to train acrobats and athletes in the 1930s, and later astronauts.



The first team sport added to the Olympics was football in 1900.



U is for Underwater Swimming

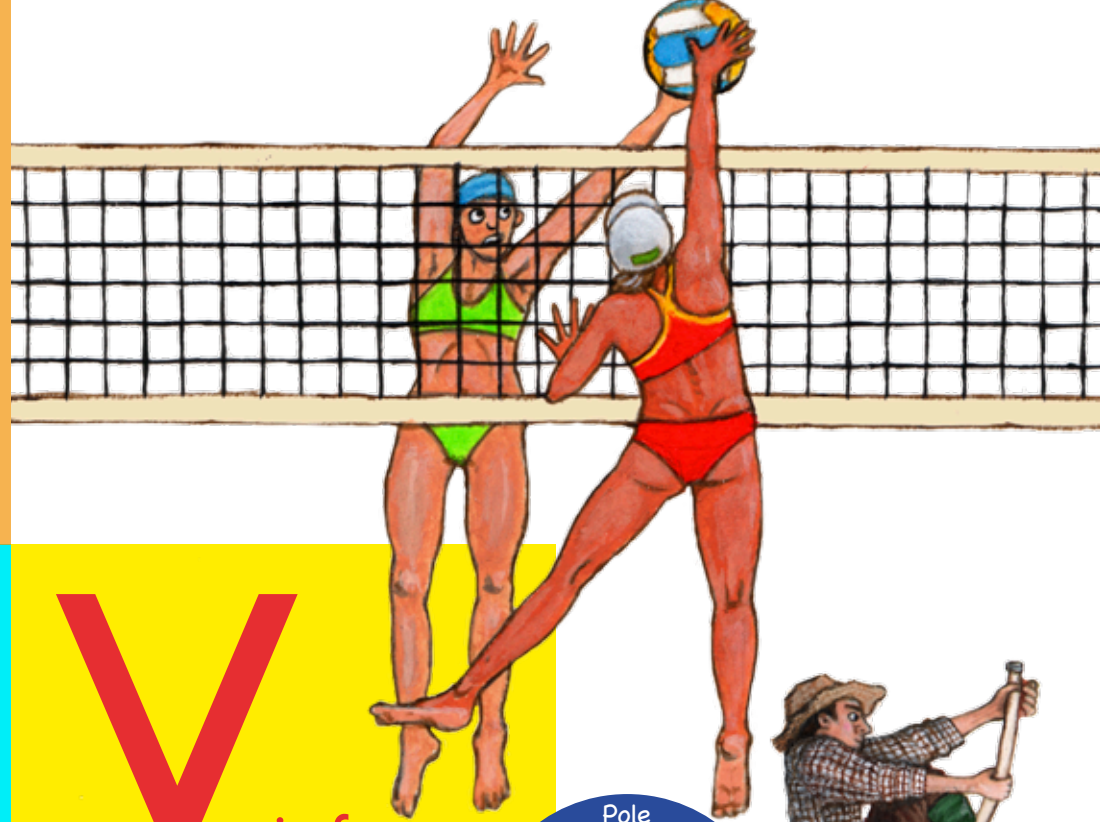


Pull the other one! Along with underwater swimming, other discontinued events include tug-of-war, rope climbing and pigeon shooting.



Underwater swimmers earned points for the time and distance swum underwater. It wasn't great fun to watch, so was dropped from later games.

V is for Volleyball





Pole vaulting originated in Holland and the east coast of England, where people used a pole to cross canals and marshy land.