

Global games

1 Talk about the graph with your partner. Answer the questions.

- 1 What information does the graph give us?
- 2 Which sport is each event for?
- 3 Which sports event is the most popular?

2a Read the text about big sports events. Which countries are mentioned?

Popular sports events: global TV audiences



A World of Sport

Big sports events bring people together, crossing barriers of language and culture. Here are some of the biggest global sports events that people enjoy watching on TV.

The Olympic Games™

The Olympic rings represent the five continents where competitors come from and they also symbolise the unity of athletes all over the world. The first Olympic Games were in Greece in 776 BC. One extraordinary thing about these original games is that, even though there was a war, all fighting stopped. Today, the idea of peace and international cooperation is still an important principle of the Games. At the 2012 London Olympics, athletes from 204 countries took part. An incredible 600 million people in different countries watched the opening ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Games.



FIFA World Cup

This football championship is every four years. The first was in Uruguay in 1930 with 13 teams from South America, Europe and North America. Many European teams weren't in the competition because it was difficult for them to travel to South America. Today, FIFA has associations in 209 countries and is sometimes called the 'United Nations of Football'. In 2010, 700 million people all over the world watched the final between the Netherlands and Spain.

NFL Super Bowl

American football evolved from a combination of rugby and association football. The NFL (National Football League) Super Bowl is the final of the annual championship. Many people from the US take the day off work to watch the game on TV, and it's the most popular US TV broadcast of the year. But American football is not only popular in the US. It is popular in Canada and Mexico, and there are more than 400 high school football teams in Japan. Over 100 million viewers all over the world watch the final every year on TV. Nowadays, lots of people also watch it online.



2b Read the text again and decide if the sentences are True (T) or False (F). Correct the false sentences.

- 1 The Olympic rings represent peace. T / F
- 2 The original Olympic Games in Greece happened when there was a war. T / F
- 3 Athletes from 104 countries took part in the 2012 London Olympic Games. T / F
- 4 The first FIFA World Cup had teams from three continents. T / F
- 5 FIFA is a part of the United Nations. T / F
- 6 The day of the Super Bowl Final is a national holiday in the US. T / F
- 7 American football is popular in several countries. T / F

2c Complete the table with the correct information. If there is no information in the text write NI.

| | The Olympic Games | FIFA World Cup | NFL Super Bowl |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| How many countries take part? | | | |
| When was the first event? | | | |
| Where was the first event? | | | |
| How many people watch it on TV? | | | |

Gateway to culture

3a Work with a partner and answer the questions.

- 1 Which are the most popular sports in your country?
- 2 Are there any big sports events in your country?
- 3 What big sports events do you like to watch on TV?

PROJECT

3b You are going to work on a project about popular sports events in different parts of the world. Read the questions and prepare your project research.

- 1 Work in small groups. Choose three countries (one must be your own country) and do some research on the Internet to find information about the following:
 - a popular national or international sports event: What is it? Where is it?
 - the history of the sports event: When did it start? Why did it start?
 - How many people watch it on TV? Which countries do competitors come from? What is the spirit of the event?
 - any interesting or surprising facts about the sports event.
- 2 Work together and discuss what you found out. Decide how to present your information to the class. This can be a slideshow, a presentation or a poster.

3c Present your information to the class. What were the main similarities and differences between your country and the two countries you chose?