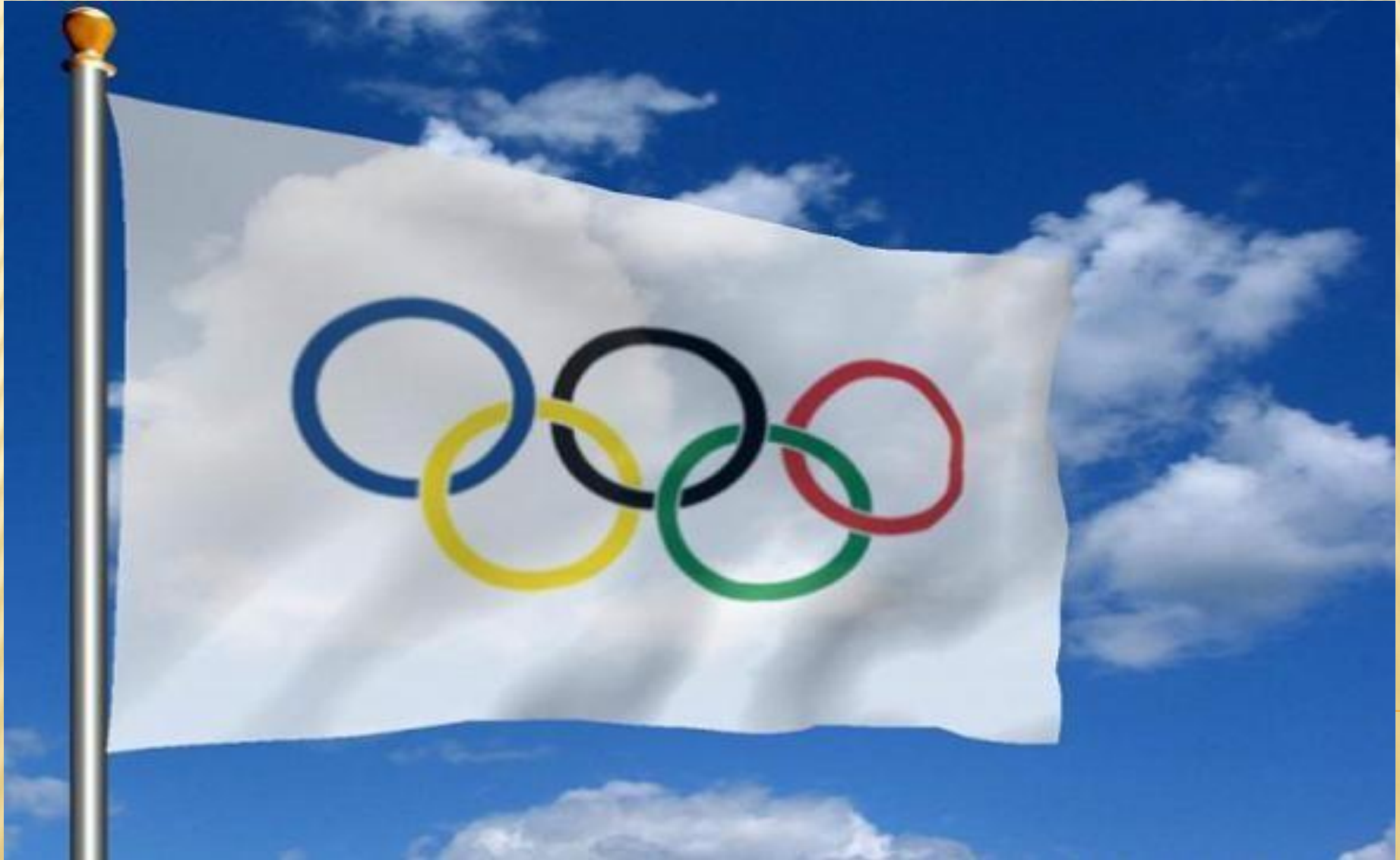
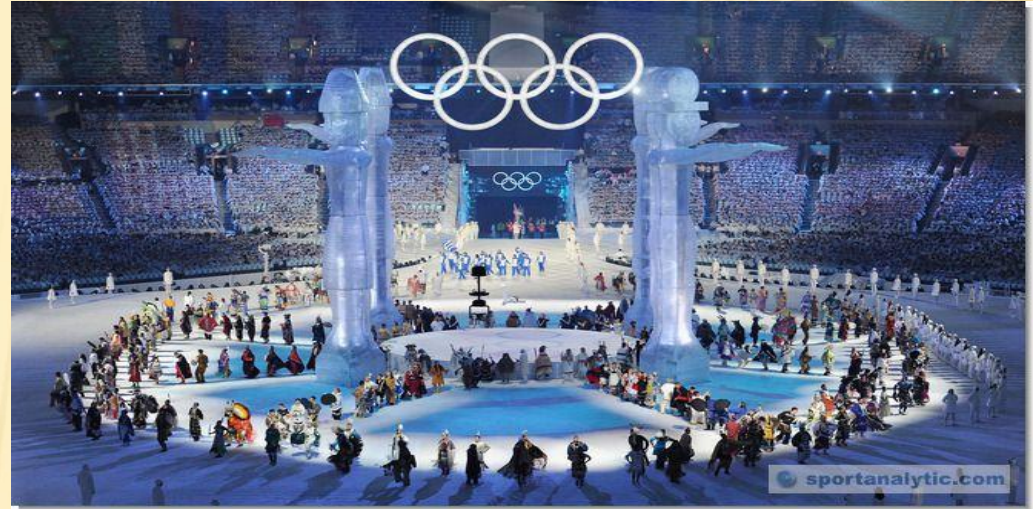
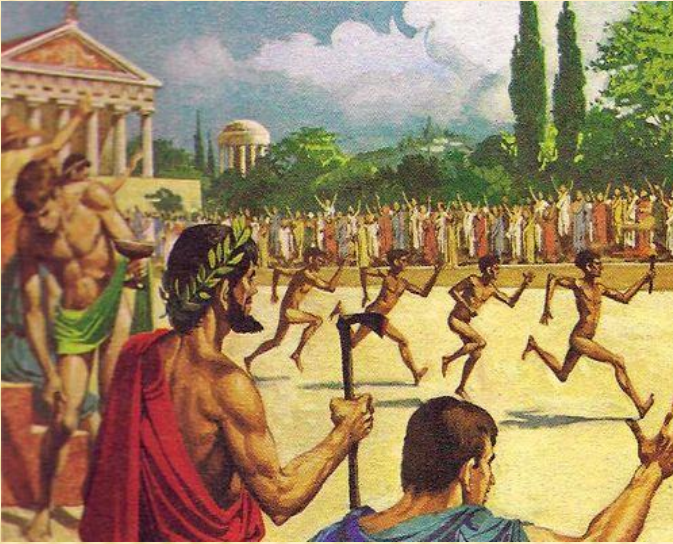


# THE OLYMPIC GAMES



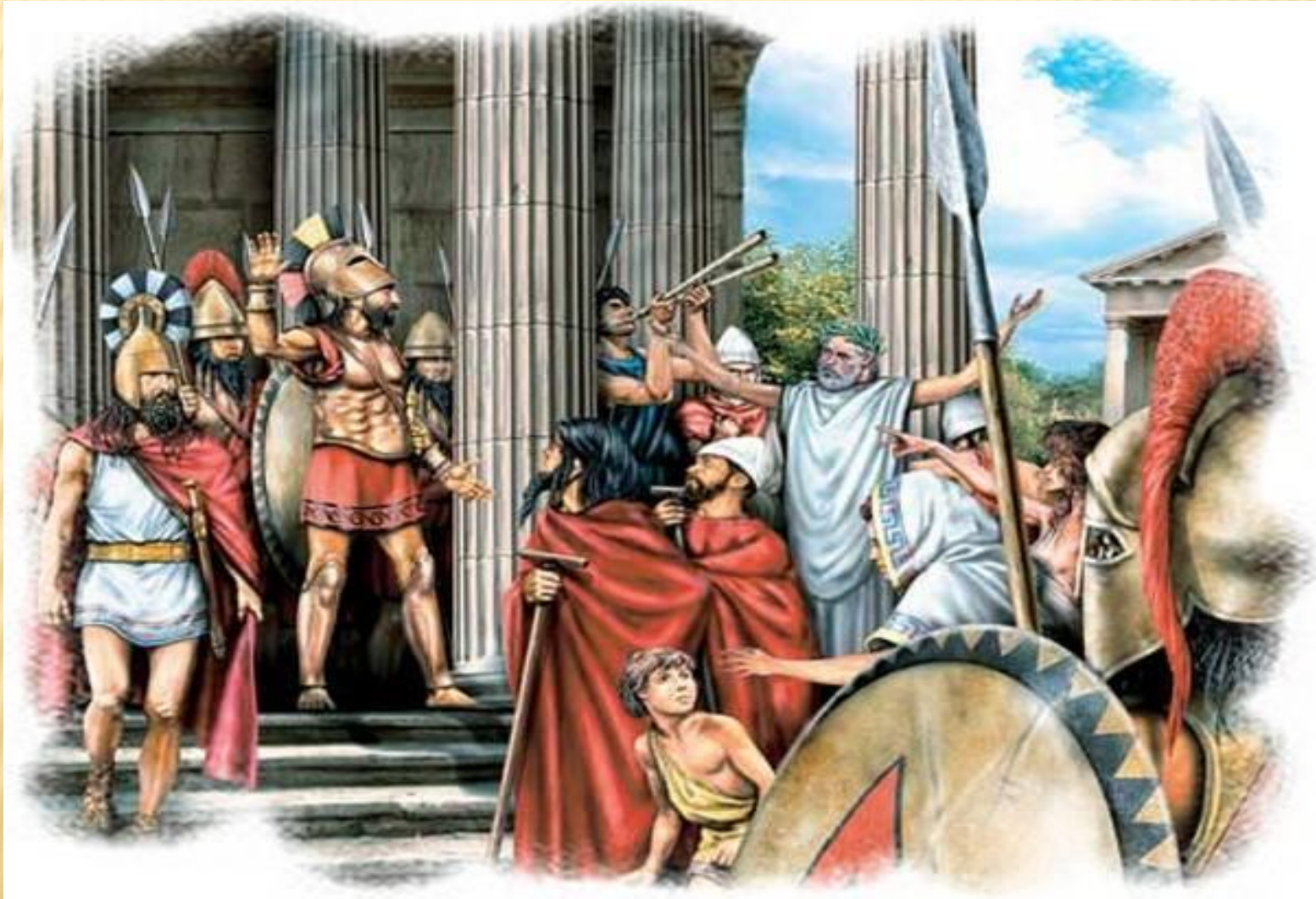
The world's greatest international sports games are known as the Olympic Games. The Olympic Games have a very long history.



They began in ancient Greece in 776 BC. The Games were held in honour of Zeus, the principal god of the Greeks.



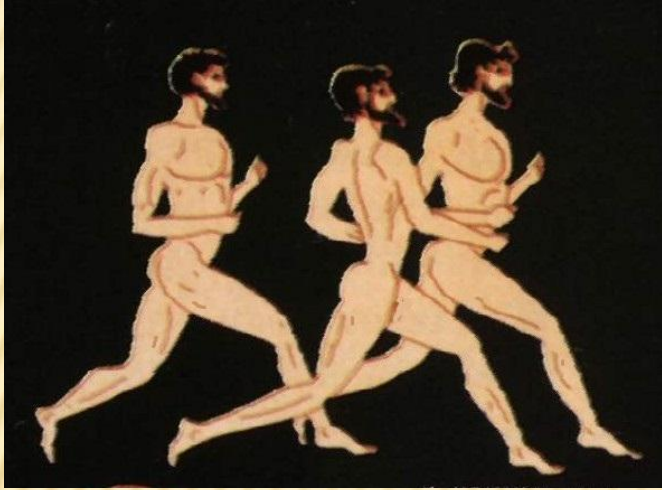
**They lasted for five days and became a symbol of peace and friendship. All wars and battles were stopped in all parts of Greece.**



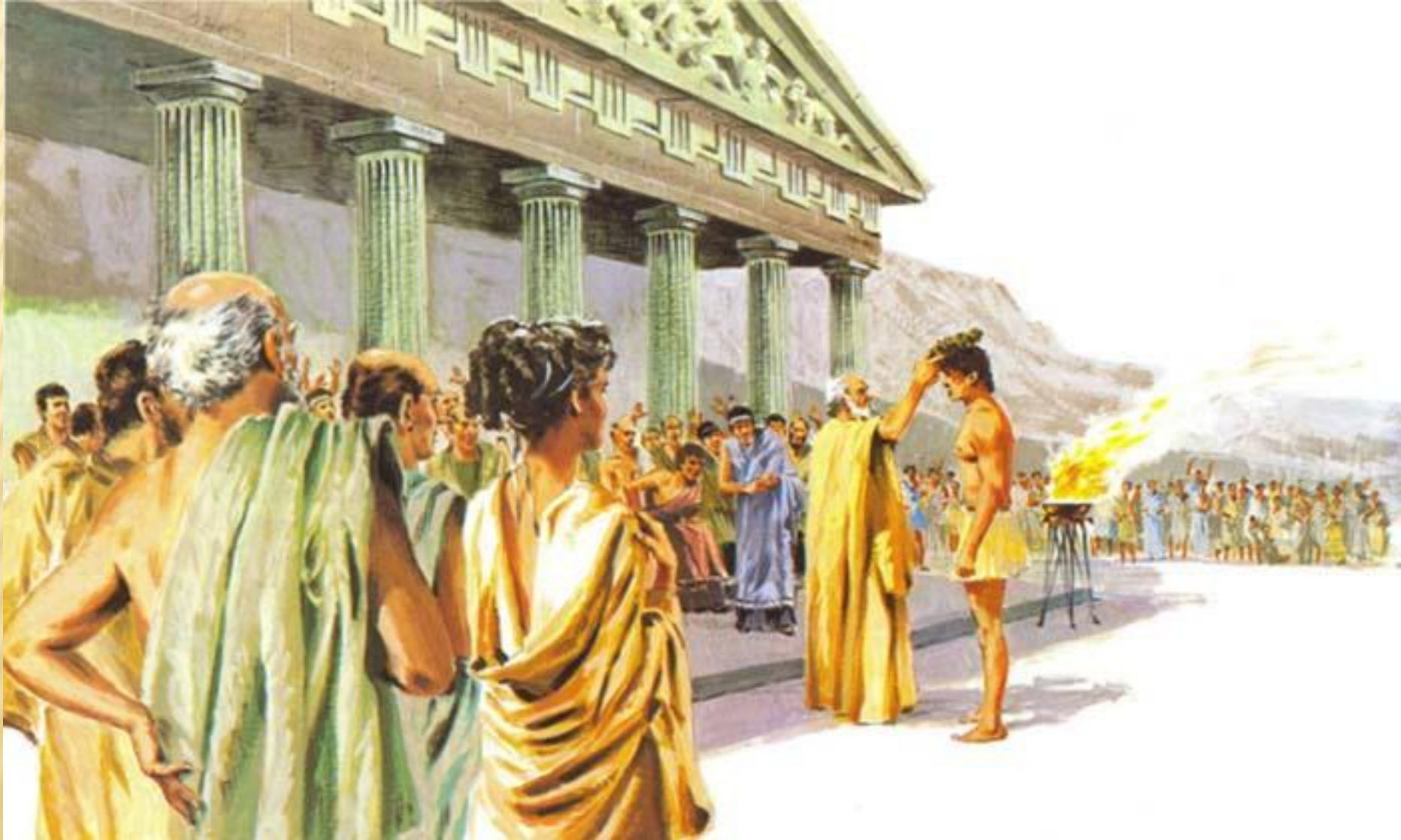
**The Games took place every four years.  
Best athletes arrived at the Valley of  
Olympia from many Greek states .**



**Sportsmen competed in running, long jumps, wrestling, throwing of discus and javelin. Boxing, a chariot race and other events were**



**Winners were called «olympionics».  
They were awarded by the olive wreaths.**



**Only men could take part in the Olympic Games.  
Women were not allowed to attend the Games.**





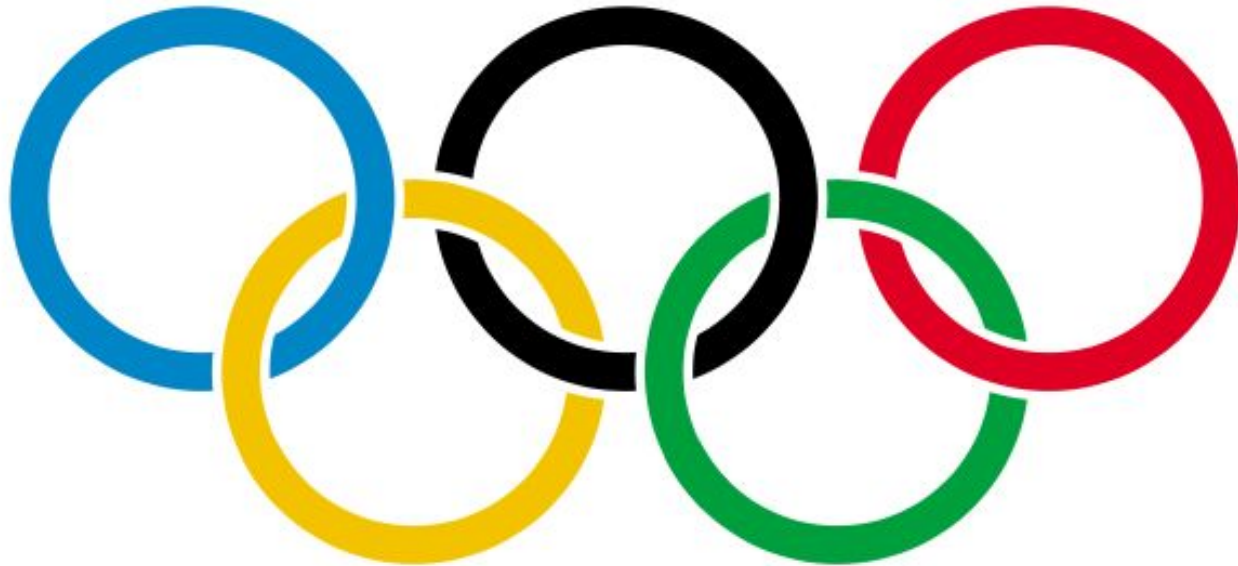
**The Olympic Games had been held for nearly twelve centuries until they were abolished in 394 AD**



The Olympic Games began again only at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century thanks to Baron Pierre de Coubertin. The first Modern Olympic Games were held in Athens in 1896.



**The Olympic emblem is five interlinked rings:  
blue, yellow, black, green and red.**





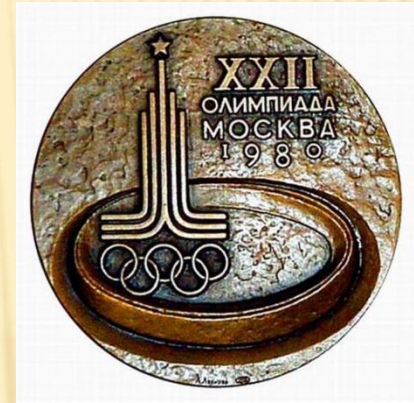
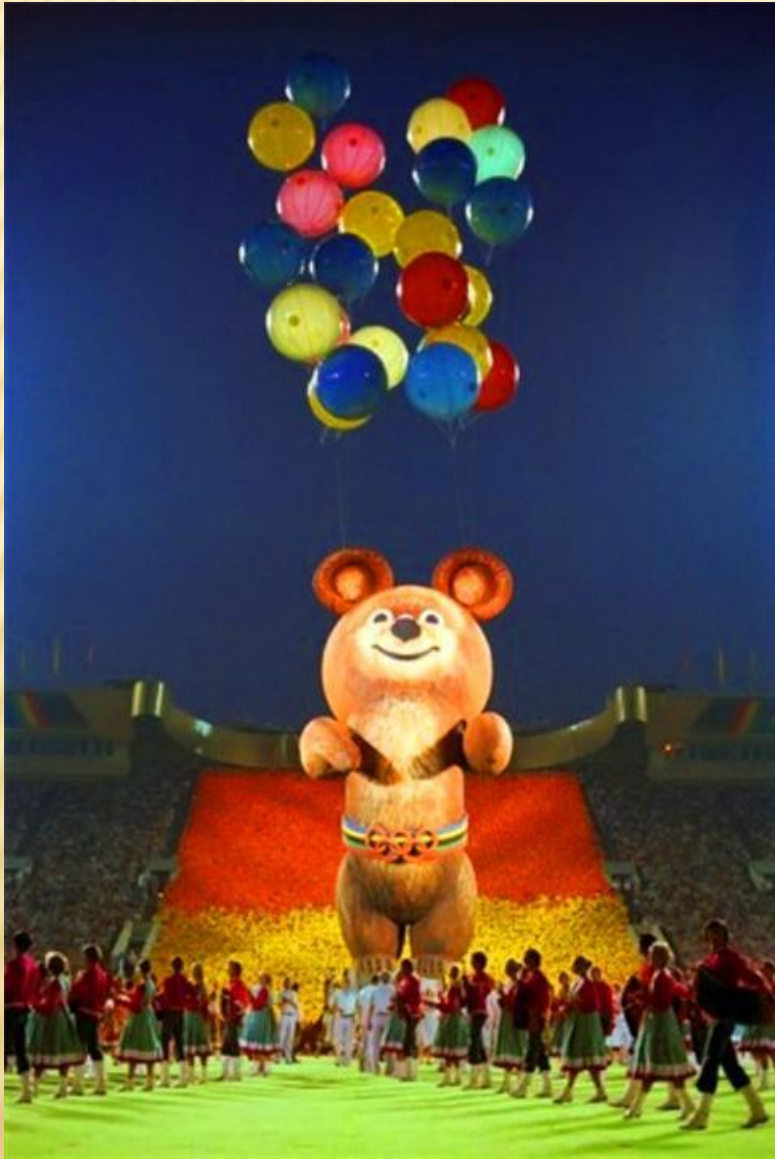
**Summer and Winter Games are held separately. There is always an interesting cultural programme of concerts, exhibitions, festivals for every Games**



**Russia joined the Olympic movement in 1952.  
Since then our country has won a lot of  
gold, silver and bronze medals.**



# In 1980 Moscow hosted the XXII Olympic Games.



# Winter Olympic Games took place in Sochi in Russia on the 7 of February 2014



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