

## The first marathon

The marathon is a race of 42,195 metres, and the men's marathon is traditionally the last event of the Olympics. The men's marathon has been in the Olympics since 1896, and the women's marathon was first in the Olympics in 1984. But this race was first run in 490 BC.

Do you know the story of the first Marathon?

*Read the text below. Can you fill in any of the gaps?*

*Read and listen to the story of the first marathon for help:*

<http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/short-stories/the-first-marathon>

In 490 BC there was a big (a) \_\_\_\_\_ between the Persians and the Greeks. Persia wanted to capture (b) \_\_\_\_\_. The Persians arrived at Marathon in Greece. They had more (c) \_\_\_\_\_ than the Greeks. The Greeks sent a messenger to Sparta to get help. The messenger ran for (d) \_\_\_\_\_ days over the mountains of Marathon to Sparta. The Spartans couldn't help and the messenger ran back to (e) \_\_\_\_\_. The Greeks and Persians fought, and the Greeks won. The messenger ran to (f) \_\_\_\_\_ to tell everybody that the Greeks had won. He ran more than (g) \_\_\_\_\_ kilometres to Athens, and then he (h) \_\_\_\_\_. This was the first marathon.



Key: (a) = war, (b) = Athens, (c) = soldiers, (d) = two, (e) = Marathon, (f) = Athens, (g) = 40, (h) = died