

Unusual Olympic Sports

9 Throughout its history, the Olympic Games have held a
18 range of strange and unusual competitions that we no
23 longer take part in today.

34 **Rope Climb:** Stopped in 1932, this was an event in which
45 competitors had to climb up a rope as quickly and as
53 stylishly as possible. The most impressive winner was
63 George Eyser in 1904, who won gold despite having a
65 wooden leg!

75 **Tug of War:** At every Olympic Games until 1920, teams
86 of eight men would have to pull their opponents six feet
97 over a line on the floor. The British team, containing lots
106 of police officers, were very good at this event.

114 **Swimming Obstacle Race:** This event only happened in
124 the 1900 Olympics. Swimmers had to climb over a pole
134 and a row of boats, before swimming under another row
140 of boats towards the finish line.



Quick Questions



1. Find and copy two adverbs which describe how competitors had to climb up the rope.



2. In what year did the only Swimming Obstacle Race take place?



3. Why was George Eyser's gold medal win the 'most impressive'? Explain your answer.



4. How do these sports compare to Olympic events we see today?

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Answers



1. Find and copy two adverbs which describe how competitors had to climb up the rope.
Accept: quickly and stylishly.



2. In what year did the only Swimming Obstacle Race take place?
Accept: 1900 only.



3. Why was George Eyser's gold medal win the 'most impressive'? Explain your answer.
Accept any answer which explains how difficult it might have been to climb the rope with a wooden leg and still be the fastest competitor.



4. How do these sports compare to Olympic events we see today?
Accept any valid similarity or difference provided, such as 'we don't have an obstacle swimming race but we do still have swimming races', or 'we do not have any events which involve using a rope anymore'.