

Fun Bits 4

The Changes of the Marathon

The marathon is a running race that is over 120 years old. Let's learn more about the development of the marathon.

History of the Marathon

Back in 490 BC, there was a battle between the Persian army and the Greek army in a town in Greece called Marathon. After the Greek army won the Battle of Marathon, they sent their fastest runner, Pheidippides, to run from Marathon to Athens to tell the citizens about the great news. Nowadays, people usually do not relate the word 'marathon' to the military, but rather to a popular running event.



Women in the Marathon

The marathon was once a sports event in which only men could participate. In 1972, the Boston Marathon became the first major race that also welcomed women to join.

A Write the correct letters in the stars.

1. history

2. military

3. participate

4. banned

A. not allowed to be used

B. the past events of something

C. to join an activity

D. related to the army

Drug Testing For the Marathon

Doping is an act of taking banned drugs in order for participants to get better results in competitions. In the past, doping was quite common in marathons and it made the races unfair. At present, dope tests can solve the problem. Inspectors get runners' urine samples to test whether they take any drugs to improve their performance. If that is the case, the runners will be disqualified from the competition or more seriously, they cannot join any races in the coming years.



STEAM Highlights

Where did the first marathon that allowed female runners to join take place? (Find the answer from the text and check it on P.72.)

B Answer Questions 1-4 in order. Draw a line in the word maze to join all the answers and find the correct exit.

1. The Persian army had a war with the Greek army in _____.

2. Before 1972, _____ could not take part in any marathons.

3. Some marathons were _____ because runners took drugs to enhance their performance.

4. A common dope test needs runners to provide their _____ samples.

Start	Marathon	men	battle
Athens	women	fair	doping
men	unfair	urine	blood
Exit A	Exit B	Exit C	Exit D