

The Winter Games



Winter Games History

The Winter Games is an international contest of winter sports that happens once every four years, with the best athletes from around the world coming together to take part.

The Winter Games were developed because it became necessary to have an international competition only for sports that take place on ice and snow, rather than competing alongside all other sports in the Winter Games.

The first Winter Games took place 102 years ago in 1924, in Chamonix, France, with only 16 nations participating.

Since 1924, the Winter Games has been hosted in a range of different cities in 12 different countries around the world. The countries are:

- the United States (hosted four times).
- France (hosted three times).
- Austria, Canada, Japan, Italy, Norway and Switzerland (all hosted two times).
- Germany, (former) Yugoslavia, Russia, South Korea and China have hosted once.

During the Second World War, the Winter Games in both 1940 and 1944 were cancelled.

The last Winter Games was held in Beijing in China, in 2022.

The 2026 Winter Games

The next Winter Games will be held in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo in Italy in February 2026. This is the second time that the Winter Games have been held in Italy.

The event will get underway on the 6th February with an opening ceremony and will last for 17 days, concluding on the 22nd February with a closing ceremony.

Did You Know...?

The 2026 Winter Games mascots are two stoats called Tina and Milo.

Tina has a light coat and is mascot of the Winter Games 2026, while Milo has a dark coat and is mascot of the 2026 Winter Para-Games.

Milo is short for Milan and Tina is short for Cortina.

During that time, there will be 93 countries competing in 16 different winter sports. The events will be held in 13 various indoor and outdoor venues around the cities of Milan and Cortina. Some events will also take place in the regions of Lombardy and Veneto, and two provinces called Trento and Bolzano.

The Winter Games Sports

The 2026 Winter Games sports include: alpine skiing, biathlon, bobsleigh, cross country skiing, curling, figure skating, freestyle skiing, ice hockey, luge, Nordic combined, short-track speed skating, skeleton, ski jumping, snowboarding and speed skating.

Biathlon - combines cross-country skiing and rifle shooting.

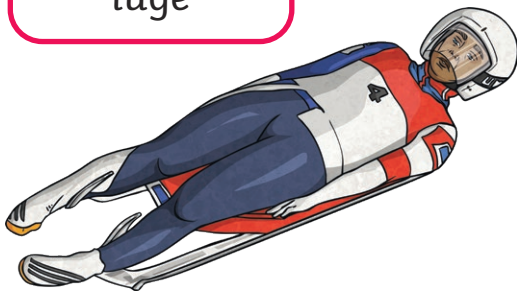
Nordic combined - includes cross-country skiing and ski jumping.

What are the luge and skeleton?

The luge involves sledging down an ice track, feet-first on your back. Riders can reach speeds of up to 90 miles per hour.

The skeleton requires the competitor to ride head-first and face down on a flat sled down an ice track, hitting speeds of up to 80 miles per hour.

luge



skeleton



Great British Success at the Winter Games

50 competitors from Great Britain competed in 11 of the sports at the 2022 Winter Games in Beijing, China. They won two medals in total, one gold and one silver, placing them 19th in the medal table.

Both of the medals were won in the sport of curling. The women's team won gold and the men's team won silver.

Questions

1. Which **two** surfaces are sports in the Winter Games carried out on?

2. Which country has hosted the Winter Games the greatest number of times?

3. Explain why you think the Second World War meant the Winter Games needed to be postponed during this period.

4. Draw **four** lines to match the numbers with the statements.

102

countries taking part in the 2026 Winter Games

93

where Great Britain were placed in the medal table in the 2022 Games

13

indoor and outdoor venues the events will take place in the 2026 Winter Games

19

years ago that the first Winter Games took place

5. Why do you think two stoats have been chosen as mascots for the 2026 Winter Games in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo?

6. Find and copy one word that means the same as 'ending'.

Questions

7. Number the events from **1-4** to show the order that they happened.

- The Winter Games were cancelled for two consecutive Games in a row.
- The Winter Games took place in Beijing, China.
- Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo hosting the Winter Games.
- The first Winter Games took place in Chamonix, France.

8. Which sport would you most like to try? Give reasons for your answer.

Answers

1. Which **two** surfaces are sports in the Winter Games carried out on?

ice and snow

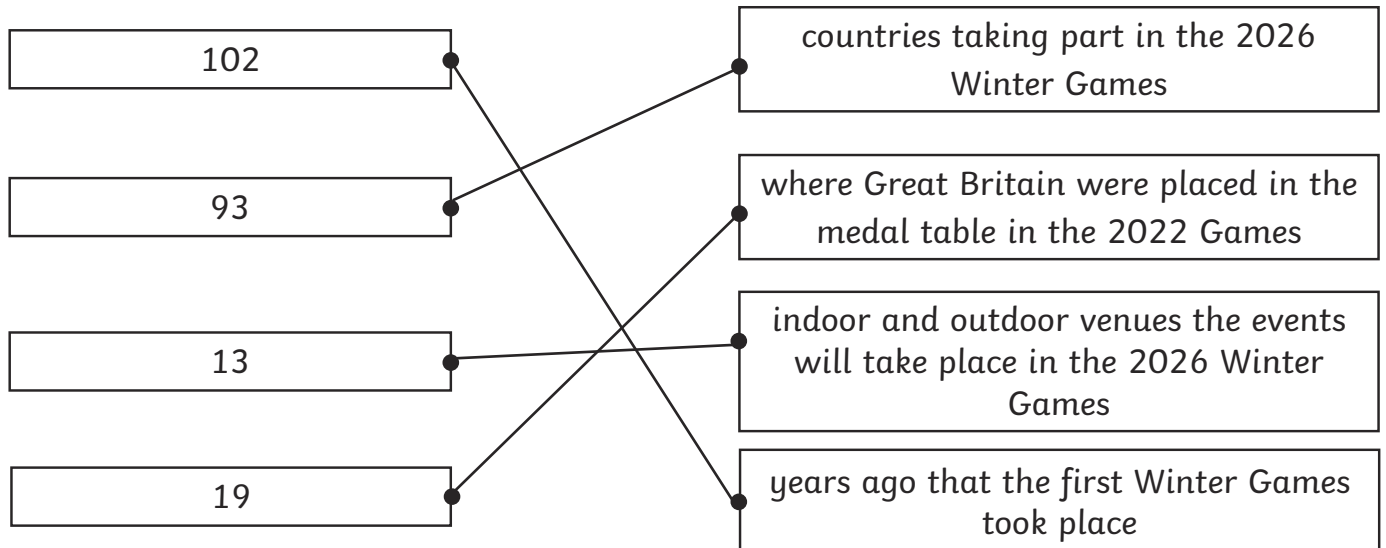
2. Which country has hosted the Winter Games the greatest number of times?

The United States

3. Explain why you think the Second World War meant the Winter Games needed to be postponed during this period.

Pupils' own responses, such as The Second World War would have meant that the Winter Games needed to be postponed because so many countries were involved in the war; Athletes and spectators could not be guaranteed to be safe during the competition; There would have not been enough money to hold such an event; It would be too dangerous.

4. Draw **four** lines to match the numbers with the statements.



5. Why do you think two stoats have been chosen as mascots for the 2026 Winter Games in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think two stoats have been chosen as mascots of the 2026 Winter Games because they are named after the two main host cities.

6. Find and copy one word that means the same as 'ending'.

concluding

Answers

7. Number the events from **1-4** to show the order that they happened.

2 The Winter Games were cancelled for two consecutive Games in a row.

4 The Winter Games took place in Beijing, China.

3 Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo hosting the Winter Games.

1 The first Winter Games took place in Chamonix, France.

8. Which sport would you most like to try? Give reasons for your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I would like to try the ski jump as I think it would be exciting to see how far a distance I can jump. Also, it would be exciting to go down the hill.

The Winter Games



Winter Games History

The Winter Games is a major international competition of winter sports that are held once every four years, with leading athletes coming together to participate from countries all around the globe.

The first Winter Games took place 102 years ago in 1924, in Chamonix, France, with just 16 nations participating.

They were developed because it became necessary to have an international competition solely for sports practiced on ice and snow, rather than competing simultaneously with all other sports in the Summer Games.

Since its establishment in 1924, the Winter Games have been hosted on three continents in 13 different countries around the world, some of which have hosted them more than once. The countries are the United States, France, Austria, Canada, Japan, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, Germany, (former) Yugoslavia, Russia, South Korea and China.

However, there has never been a city in the **Southern Hemisphere** to host the Winter Games, which are held in the month of February.

Southern Hemisphere - the half of Earth that is south of the Equator, which includes:

Antarctica, Australia, New Zealand, most of South America, one third of Africa, several islands off mainland Asia, and most of the Pacific Islands in Oceania.

The only time the Games have ever been interrupted were in both 1940 and 1944 due to the Second World War.

The most recent Winter Games was held in Beijing in China, in 2022.



The 2026 Winter Games

The next Winter Games will be held in the city of cities of Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo in Italy 2026. This is the second time that the Winter Games have been held in Italy.

The event will kick off on the 6th February with what is sure to be a spectacular opening ceremony at the Giuseppe Meazza Stadium in Milan (also known as the San Siro).

It concludes on the 22nd February with a closing ceremony.

During the 17 days of the 2026 Winter Games, there will be 93 countries competing in 16 different winter sports. The events will be held in 13 different indoor and outdoor venues around the cities, with some events taking place in the regions of Lombardy and Veneto, and two provinces called Trento and Bolzano.

The 2026 Winter Games mascots are two lively stoats called Tina and Milo. Tina has a light coat and is mascot of the Winter Games 2026, while Milo has a dark coat and is mascot of the 2026 Winter Para-Games. Milo is short for Milan and Tina is short for Cortina. Stoats, with their liveliness and speed, are ideal animals to represent the spirit of the Games.

The Winter Games Sports

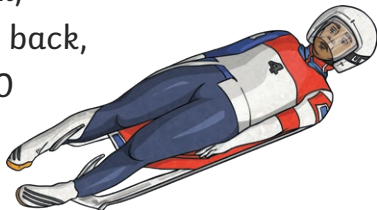


The Winter Games have evolved since their establishment in 1924, when only five sports were included.

The 2026 Winter Games sports include: alpine skiing, biathlon (cross-country skiing and rifle shooting), bobsleigh, cross country skiing, curling, figure skating, freestyle skiing, ice hockey, luge, Nordic combined (cross-country skiing and ski jumping), short-track speed skating, skeleton, ski jumping, snowboarding and speed skating.

luge

The luge - sledging down an ice track, feet-first on your back, reaching up to 90 miles per hour.



skeleton

The skeleton - riding head-first on your front on a flat sled down an ice track, hitting speeds of up to 80 miles per hour.



Great British Success at the Winter Games

50 competitors from Great Britain competed in 11 of the sports at the 2022 Winter Games in Beijing, China. They won two medals in total, one gold and one silver, ranking them 19th in the medal table. Both of the medals were won in the sport of curling. The women's team won gold and the men's team won silver.

Lizzy Yarnold became the first British athlete to win a gold medal in two consecutive Winter Games when she won the women's skeleton at the 2018 Winter Games.

Questions

1. Which **two** surfaces are sports in the Winter Games carried out on?

2. Why do you think there has never been a city from the Southern Hemisphere to host the Winter Games, which are held in February?

3. Draw **four** lines to match the numbers with the statements. One has been done for you.

102

93

13

19

13

countries taking part in the 2026 Winter Games

where Great Britain were placed in the medal table in the 2022 Games

different countries to have hosted the Winter Games

years ago that the first Winter Games took place

indoor and outdoor venues the events will take place in the 2026 Winter Games

4. Why do you think two stoats have been chosen as mascots for the 2026 Winter Games in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo?

5. Which Italian city is the mascot called Milo named after? Tick **one**.

- Cortina d'Ampezzo
- Rome
- Milan
- Turin

Questions

6. Which country hosted the first Winter Games?

7. List **two** differences between the luge and the skeleton?

1) _____

2) _____

8. Which sport would you most like to try? Give reasons for your answer.

9. Would you agree that Lizzy Yarnold is Britain's most successful Winter Games athlete?

Explain your answer.

Answers

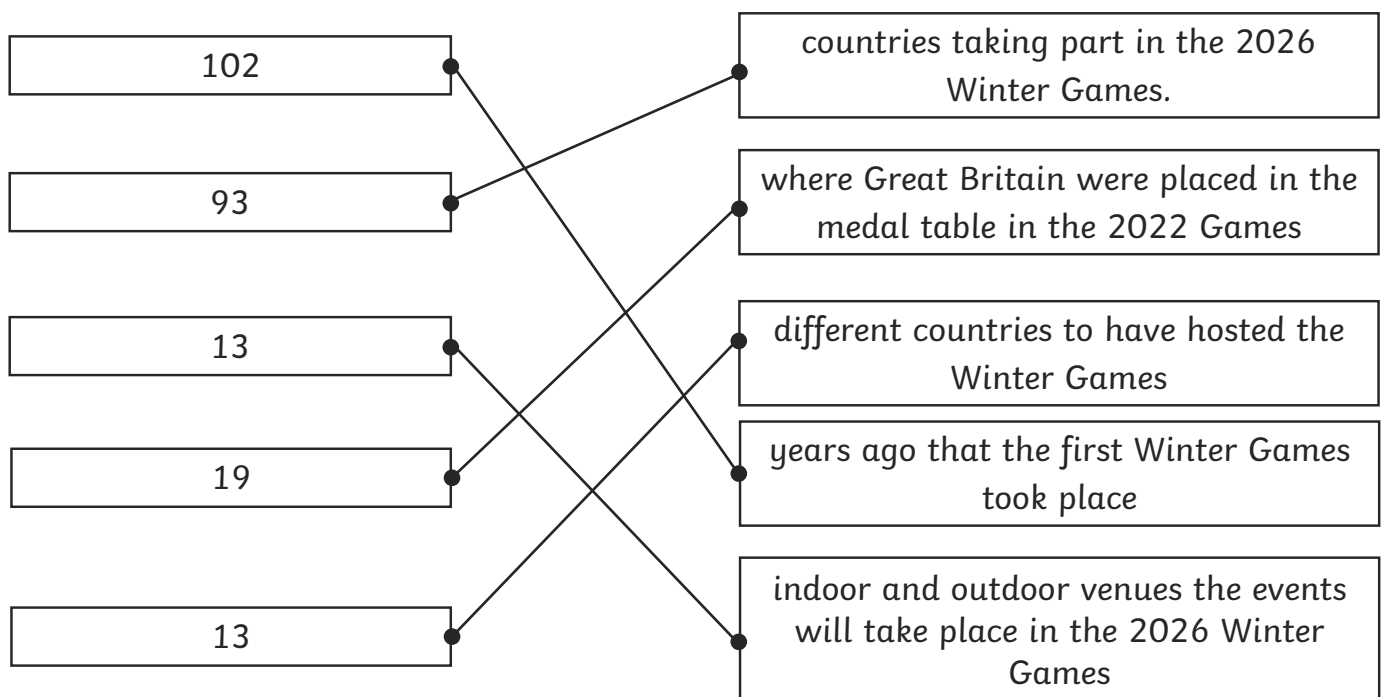
1. Which **two** surfaces are sports in the Winter Games carried out on?

ice and snow

2. Why do you think there has never been a city from the Southern Hemisphere to host the Winter Games, which are held in February?

Pupils' own responses, such as: A city from the Southern Hemisphere has never hosted the Winter Games, which are held in February, because this is when it is summertime in the Southern Hemisphere. Therefore, there would not be the right weather for winter sports for the Winter Games in the southern hemisphere in February.

3. Draw **four** lines to match the numbers with the statements. One has been done for you.



4. Why do you think two stoats have been chosen as mascots for the 2026 Winter Games in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think two stoats have been chosen as mascots of the 2026 Winter Games because they are named after the two main host cities.

5. Which Italian city is the mascot called Milo named after? Tick **one**.

- Cortina d'Ampezzo
- Rome
- Milan**
- Turin

Answers

6. Which country hosted the first Winter Games?

France

7. List **two** differences between the luge and the skeleton?

Accept two answers from the three possible answers:

Luge is feet first and skeleton is head-first.

Luge is done lying on your back and skeleton is done on your front.

Luge goes up to 90mph, skeleton goes up to 80 mph.

8. Which sport would you most like to try? Give reasons for your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I would like to try the ski jump as I think it would be exciting to see how far a distance I can jump. Also, it would be exciting to go down the hill.

9. Would you agree that Lizzy Yarnold is Britain's most successful Winter Games athlete?

Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I would agree that Lizzy Yarnold is Britain's most successful Winter Games athlete because no other British athlete has won two gold medals at two consecutive Winter Games.

The Winter Games



Winter Games History

The Winter Games is a major international competition of sports practiced on ice or snow that is held in February once every four years. The 102-year-old event brings together the finest athletes from countries all around the globe to compete against one another.

The first Winter Games took place in 1924 with just 16 nations participating. Prior to that, they had the Nordic Games held in Stockholm, Sweden in 1901 (for Norway, Denmark and Sweden) and a Winter Sports Week held in Chamonix, France in 1908, with 2000 spectators gathering to watch the sporting spectacle. Four years later, that number increased to 12,000 spectators.

The organisers wanted to build on the success of the Winter Sports Week and so, the first Winter Games, as we know it today, was held in 1924, in Chamonix, France. However, the event was called International Winter Sports Week and retrospectively (afterwards) named the Winter Games.

Since its establishment, the Winter Games has been hosted on three continents in 13 different countries worldwide, with some having hosted it more than once. The host countries include the United States, France, Austria, Canada, Japan, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, Germany, (former) Yugoslavia, Russia, South Korea and China.

The most recent Winter Games was held in Beijing, China, in 2022.

Winter Games Fascinating Facts

There has never been a city in the Southern Hemisphere (Antarctica, Australia, New Zealand, most of South America, one third of Africa, China, several islands off mainland Asia, and most of the Pacific Islands in Oceania) to host the Winter Games, which are always held in February.

The only time the Games were cancelled was in both 1940 and 1944 owing to the Second World War.

In 1988, the Jamaican bobsleigh team made history when they became the first tropical country to be represented in a winter sport. The team inspired the movie 'Cool Runnings'.

The 2026 Winter Games

The next Winter Games will be held in the cities of Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo in Italy 2026. This is the second time that the Winter Games have been held in Italy.

The event commences on the 6th February with what is sure to be a spectacular opening ceremony at the Giuseppe Meazza Stadium in Milan (also known as the San Siro). It concludes on the 22nd February with a closing ceremony.

During the 17 days of the Winter Games, there will be 93 countries competing in 16 different winter sports. The events will be held in 13 different indoor and outdoor venues around the cities, with some events taking place in the regions of Lombardy and Veneto, and two provinces called Trento and Bolzano.

The 2026 Winter Games mascots are two stoats called Tina and Milo.

Tina is short for Cortina and is the mascot of the Winter Games 2026, whilst Milo is named after Milan and is the mascot of the 2026 Winter Para-Games.

Stoats, with their liveliness and speed, are ideal animals to represent the spirit of the Games. In addition, stoats are adaptive as they change the colour of their fur according to the seasons and demonstrate resilience as they tend to live in harsh habitats such as mountains

The Winter Games Sports



The Winter Games have evolved since their establishment in 1924. Some sports and disciplines have been added, some have been dropped but later reintroduced, while others have been permanently discontinued, such as the military patrol in which athletes competed in cross-country skiing, ski mountaineering and rifle shooting.

The 2026 Winter Games sports include: alpine skiing, biathlon (cross-country skiing and rifle shooting), bobsleigh, cross country skiing, curling, figure skating, freestyle skiing, ice hockey, luge (sledding down an ice track, feet-first on your back, reaching up to 90mph), Nordic combined (cross-country skiing and ski jumping), short-track speed skating, skeleton (riding head-first and face down on a flat sled down an ice track, hitting up to 80mph), ski jumping, snowboarding and speed skating.



Great British Success at the Winter Games

50 competitors from Great Britain competed in 11 of the sports at the 2022 Winter Games in Beijing, China. They won two medals in total, one gold and one silver, ranking them 19th in the medal table. Both of the medals were won in the sport of curling. The women's team won gold and the men's team won silver.

Lizzy Yarnold became the first British athlete to win multiple gold medals by winning the women's skeleton title in consecutive games (2014 and 2018).



Questions

1. Number the events from **1-5** to show the order that they happened in. The first one has been done for you.

- The Winter Games were cancelled in two consecutive Games in a row.
- 1** The Nordic Games were held in Stockholm, Sweden.
- A Jamaican bobsleigh team made history by becoming the first tropical country to compete at the Winter Games.
- The first Winter Games took place in Chamonix, France.
- The Winter Games were held in Beijing, China.

2. Why do you think there has never been a city from the Southern Hemisphere to host the Winter Games, which are held in February?

3. Which fact or facts did you find most interesting in the 'Winter Games Fascinating Facts' section? Give reasons for your answer.

4. What is the significance of the 'San Siro'?

5. Complete the missing numbers in the following statements about the 2026 Winter Games.

The 2026 Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo Winter Games will last for ___ days.

___ countries will be competing.

There will be ___ different winter sports.

Events will be held in ___ different indoor and outdoor venues around the cities.

Questions

6. Explain, in your own words, what the mascots symbolise for the 2026 Winter Games.

7. List the **three** differences between the luge and the skeleton?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

8. Draw **four** lines to match the Winter Games event with the description. The first one has been done for you.

military patrol	•	sledging down an ice track, feet-first on your back
Nordic combined	•	cross-country skiing, ski mountaineering and rifle shooting
skeleton	•	cross-country skiing and rifle shooting
biathlon	•	cross-country skiing and ski jumping
luge	•	riding head-first and face down on a flat sled down an ice track

9. Which sport would you most like to try? Give reasons for your answer.

10. Would you agree that Lizzy Yarnold is Britain's most successful Winter Games athlete? Explain your answer.

Answers

1. Number the events from **1-5** to show the order that they happened in. The first one has been done for you.

3 The Winter Games were cancelled in two consecutive Games in a row.

1 The Nordic Games were held in Stockholm, Sweden.

4 A Jamaican bobsleigh team made history by becoming the first tropical country to compete at the Winter Games.

2 The first Winter Games took place in Chamonix, France.

5 The Winter Games were held in Beijing, China.

2. Why do you think there has never been a city from the Southern Hemisphere to host the Winter Games, which are held in February?

Pupils' own responses, such as: A city from the Southern Hemisphere has never hosted the Winter Games, which are held in February, because this is when it is summertime in the Southern Hemisphere. Therefore, there would not be the right weather for winter sports for the Winter Games in the southern hemisphere in February.

3. Which fact or facts did you find most interesting in the 'Winter Games Fascinating Facts' section? Give reasons for your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the fact about the Jamaican Bobsleigh team is the most interesting because you would not expect someone from such a hot country to be able to bobsleigh. I also like the fact that there is a film about it.

4. What is the significance of the 'San Siro'?

The San Siro is the name of the Giuseppe Meazza Stadium where the opening ceremony will take place.

5. Complete the missing numbers in the following statements about the 2026 Winter Games. The 2026 Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo Winter Games will last for **17** days.

93 countries will be competing.

There will be **16** different winter sports.

Events will be held in **13** different indoor and outdoor venues around the city.

Answers

6. Explain, in your own words, what the mascots symbolise for the 2026 Winter Games.
Pupils' responses will vary, such as: The mascots for the 2026 Winter Games are stoats which are lively and speedy animals. They also show great resilience and adaptability. These are qualities which are shared by the Winter Games spirit and shown by the athletes.

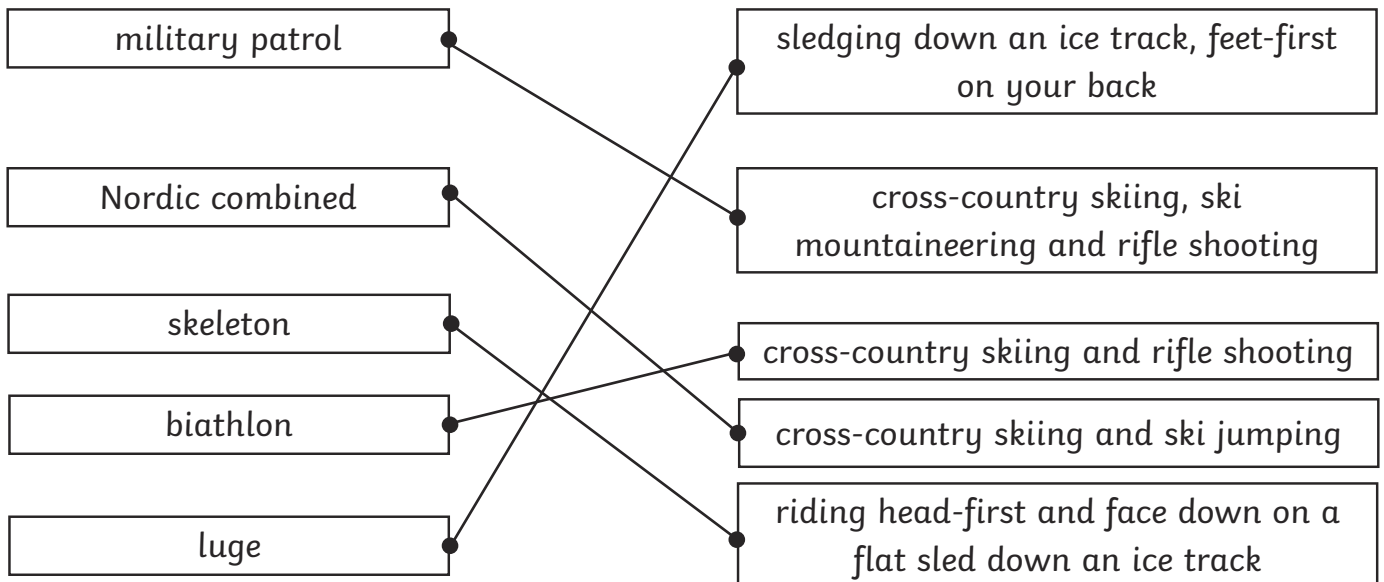
7. List the **three** differences between the luge and the skeleton?

1) Luge is feet first and skeleton is head-first.

2) Luge is done lying on your back and skeleton is done on your front.

3) Luge goes up to 90mph, skeleton goes up to 80 mph.

8. Draw **four** lines to match the Winter Games event with the description. The first one has been done for you.



9. Which sport would you most like to try? Give reasons for your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I would like to try the ski jump as I think it would be exciting to see how far a distance I can jump. Also, it would be exciting to go down the hill.

10. Would you agree that Lizzy Yarnold is Britain's most successful Winter Games athlete? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I would agree that Lizzy Yarnold is Britain's most successful Winter Games athlete because no other British athlete has won two gold medals at two consecutive Winter Games.