

Wimbledon

Wimbledon is one of the world's most important tennis tournaments. Lots of players all want to win the grand prize.

Rich History

Wimbledon is famous for serving strawberries and cream and was the first tennis tournament to ever take place. Wimbledon began in 1877 and many brilliant players have won the grand prize during that time.

Money, Money, Money

The players that win the tournament at Wimbledon are given a lot of prize money. The players that win the finals for the singles matches will receive over £2 million.

Playing the Game

The early rounds start in June but the main matches at Wimbledon begin in July. When tennis was invented, a ball was hit with the inside part of the hand but things have changed a lot since then. These days, players use a racquet (racket) which makes the ball travel a lot quicker.

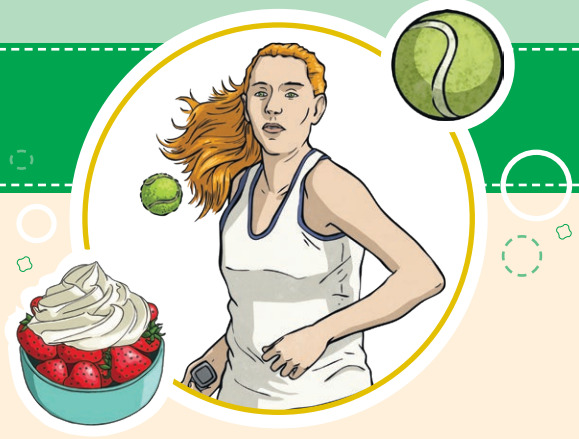
When a player starts a new point, they throw the ball above their head and hit it hard. This is called a serve. The fastest speed for a serve at Wimbledon is 238 kilometres per hour. This is about the same speed as an average helicopter.

What Matches Take Place?

Along with the men's and women's singles matches, there are men's doubles, women's doubles and mixed doubles, alongside wheelchair and junior events.

Did You Know...?

The 2020 Wimbledon tournament was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021 event was planned to allow for greater social distancing between spectators.



Here are five more fun facts about Wimbledon.

- 1. Players must wear white.**
Umpires can ask a player to change their clothes if they're not wearing white.
- 2. The balls can't be white!**
To begin with, Wimbledon matches were played with white tennis balls. However, that was changed when TV viewers couldn't see them! In 1986, the balls were changed to yellow.
- 3. The tennis balls are kept in the fridge!**
To make sure they are in perfect condition, tennis balls are stored in fridges! Over **54,000** balls are used during Wimbledon.
- 4. It's not easy being a ballboy or ballgirl.**
Ballgirls and ballboys kneel at the side of the court and grab any loose tennis balls which come near them during a game. Ballboys and ballgirls often come from local London schools but have to pass lots of tests to be given the job.
- 5. Matches aren't always quick.**
In 2010, a match spanned over an incredible three days! The players spent 11 hours five minutes hitting balls to one another!

Questions

1. Which of these is the best description of Wimbledon? Tick one.

- a softball tournament
- the newest tennis tournament in the world
- one of the world's most important tennis tournaments
- the only tennis tournament in the world

2. When did Wimbledon begin?

3. How much money will the winners of Wimbledon get? Tick one.

- £2
- £54
- £54,000
- over £2 million

4. What changed in 1986?

5. Draw **three** lines to match the sentences.

Ballboys and ballgirls...

spanned over an
incredible three days.

In 2010, a match...

kneel at the side of the court.

The fastest speed for a
serve at Wimbledon...

is 238 kilometres per hour.

6. Which of these is not a match played at Wimbledon? Tick one.

- mixed singles
- men's singles
- women's singles
- mixed doubles

7. **Matches aren't always quick.**

Find this part in the text. Describe in detail how you would have felt if you were the losing player in that game.

Answers

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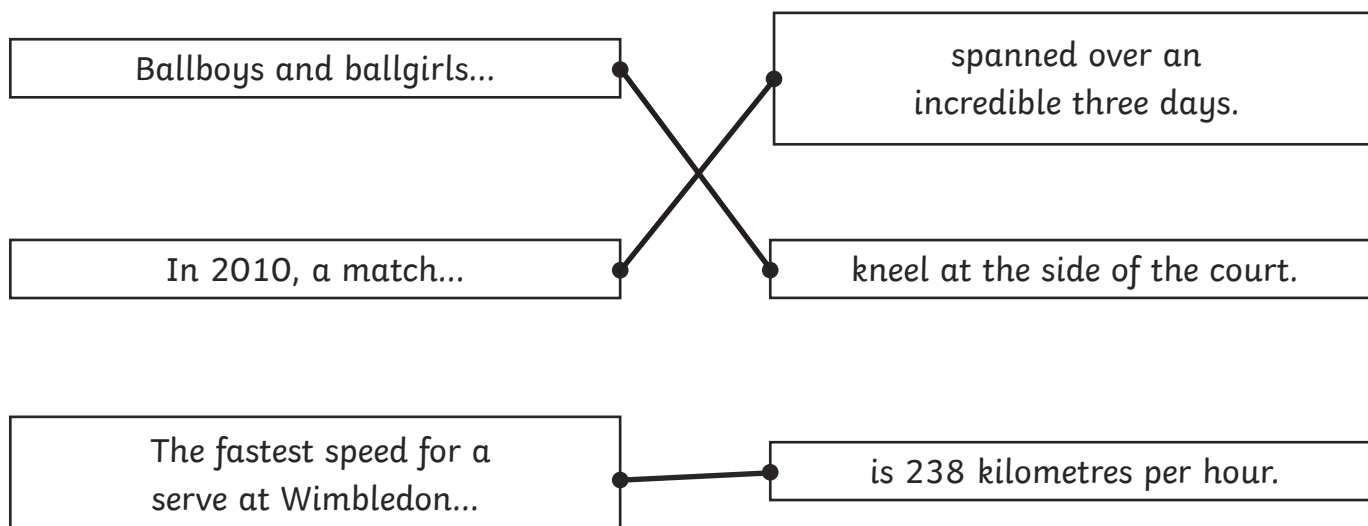
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7. **Matches aren't always quick.**

Find this part in the text. Describe in detail how you would have felt if you were the losing player in that game.

Pupils' own responses, such as: After putting so much into the game, I would have been so disappointed as well as really tired, but proud that I entertained all those people for so long and played as well as I could.

Wimbledon

Wimbledon is played on grass and is the oldest tennis tournament in the world. Many popular and skilled players want to win the grand prize.

Rich History



'The Championships, Wimbledon' is famous for serving strawberries and cream and was the first tennis tournament to ever take place. In fact, players have been hitting balls at Wimbledon since 1877! In that time, there have been many brilliant players who have won the grand prize.

Money, Money, Money



The players get a lot of prize money for winning Wimbledon. In recent years, the finalists of the men's and women's singles titles have received over £2 million.

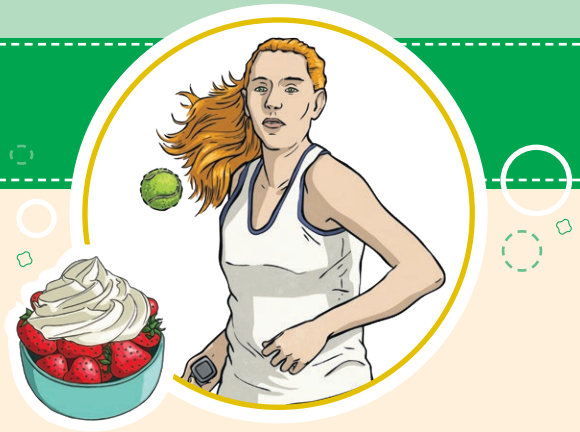
Here are five more fun facts about Wimbledon.

1. **Players must wear white.**

Umpires can ask a player to change if they're not wearing white. In 2013, the Wimbledon champion was told to change his shoes because they had orange soles!

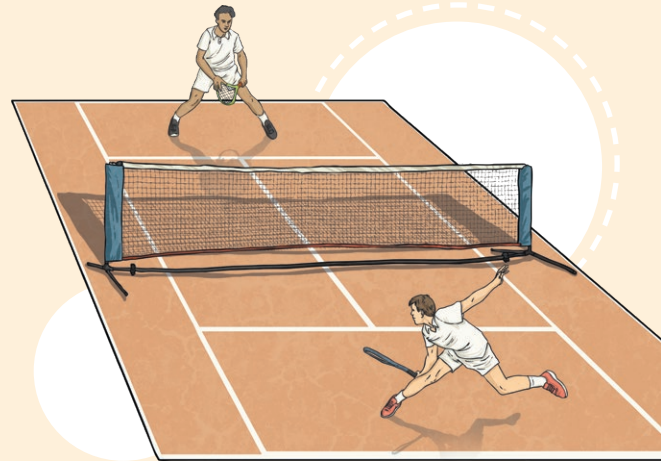
2. **The balls can't be white!**

To begin with, Wimbledon matches were played with white tennis balls. However, that was changed when TV viewers complained that they couldn't see them! In 1986, the balls were changed to yellow.



Playing the Game

The matches at Wimbledon are very different to how tennis was played when it was invented in France in the 12th century.



To begin with, a ball was hit with the palm of the hand.

These days, Wimbledon players strike the ball with a racquet and this can be really fast.

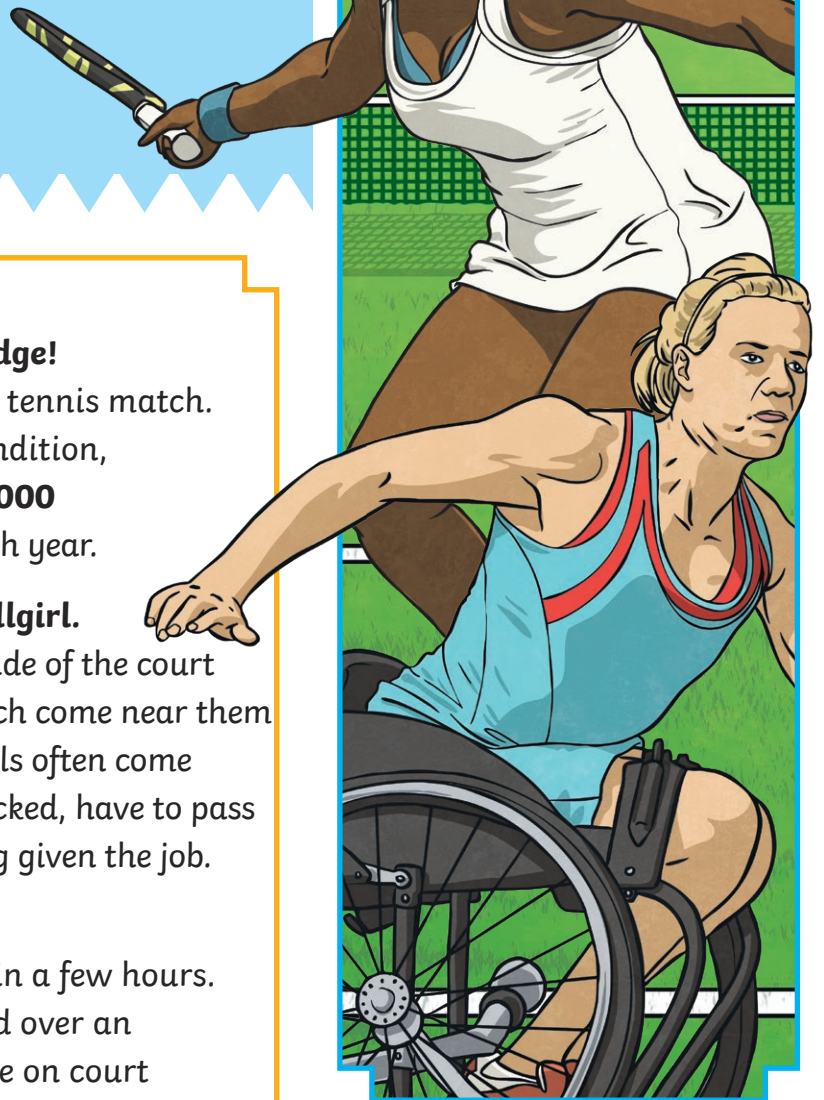
A serve is when the players throw the ball in the air and hit it from above their head. The record speed for a serve at Wimbledon is 238 kilometres per hour. This is about the same speed as an average helicopter.

Did You Know...?



The COVID-19 pandemic meant that the 2020 Wimbledon tournament was cancelled.

The 2021 event has been planned to allow for greater social distancing between spectators.



3. **The tennis balls are kept in the fridge!**

New balls are used all the time in a tennis match. To make sure they are in perfect condition, they are stored in fridges! Over **54,000** balls are used during Wimbledon each year.

4. **It's not easy being a ballboy or ballgirl.**

Ballgirls and ballboys kneel at the side of the court and grab any loose tennis balls which come near them during a game. Ballboys and ballgirls often come from local London schools and, if picked, have to pass written and fitness tests before being given the job.

5. **Matches aren't always quick.**

Usually, matches are finished within a few hours. However, in 2010, a match spanned over an incredible three days! The total time on court was 11 hours and five minutes.

When Does It All Start?

Qualifying starts in June but the main matches at Wimbledon begin in July.

There are many titles to be won in the two weeks that Wimbledon lasts. Along with the men's and women's singles matches, there are men's doubles, women's doubles and mixed doubles, alongside wheelchair and junior events.

Questions

1. What is the full name of the Wimbledon tournament?

2. Which statements are true? Tick **two**.

- Wimbledon began in 1877.
- The only food at Wimbledon is strawberries and cream.
- Wimbledon is the oldest tennis tournament in the world.
- Wimbledon is the only tennis tournament in the world.

3. Why was the Wimbledon champion told to change his shoes?

4. Which of these would you find at Wimbledon? Tick **two**.

- yellow balls
- referees
- shuttlecocks
- ballboys and ballgirls

5. Which of these is not a match played at Wimbledon? Tick one.

- mixed singles
- men's singles
- women's singles
- mixed doubles

6. Imagine you are a tennis player at Wimbledon. Explain how it would make you feel.

7. Draw **four** lines to match the number to the correct fact.

11

The number of balls used during Wimbledon each year.

1877

The amount of pounds awarded for making it to the finals of Wimbledon.

54,000

The number of hours the longest Wimbledon match lasted for.

over 2 million

The year Wimbledon began.

8. Do you think you would enjoy being a spectator at Wimbledon? Explain why.

Answers

1. What is the full name of the Wimbledon tournament?

The full name of the Wimbledon tournament is The Championships, Wimbledon.

2. Which statements are true? Tick **two**.

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3. Why was the Wimbledon champion told to change his shoes?

The Wimbledon champion was told to change his shoes because they had orange soles and players have to wear white.

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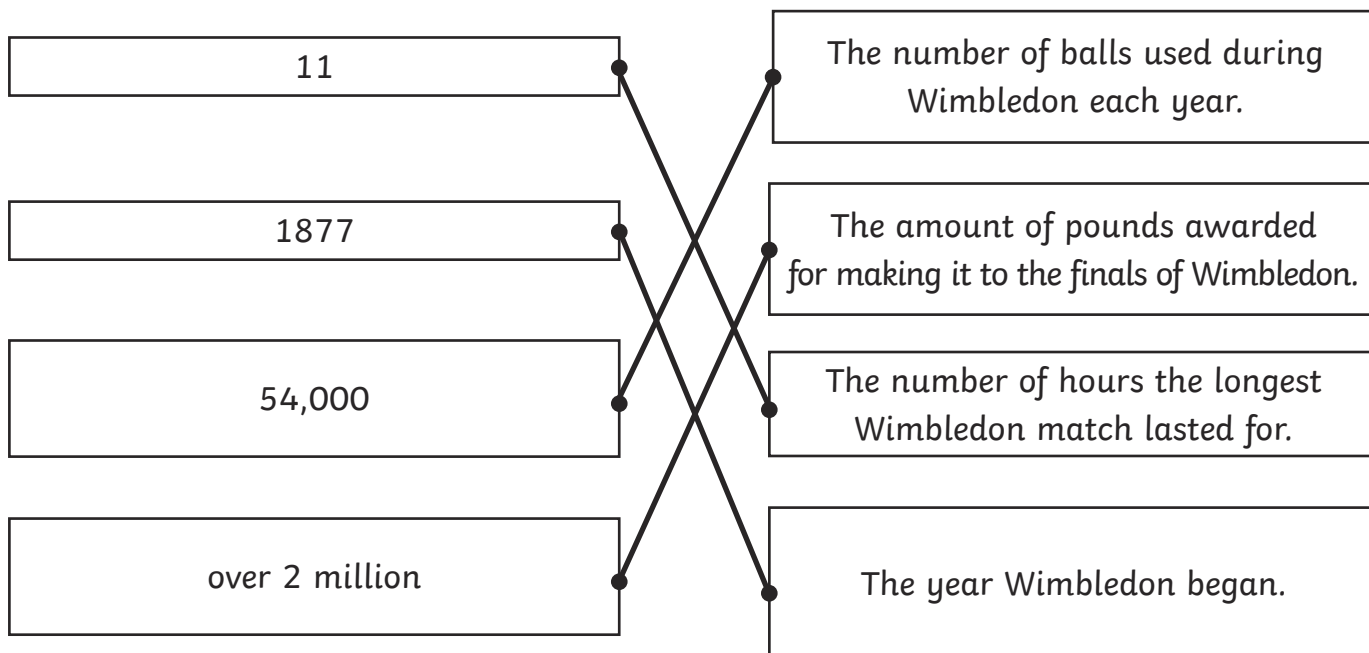
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- mixed singles**
- men's singles
- women's singles
- mixed doubles

6. Imagine you were a tennis player at Wimbledon. Explain how it would make you feel.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I would be really nervous but proud to be taking part in such a historic event. It's the oldest tennis tournament in the world so I would be really keen and excited to play.

7. Draw **four** lines to match the number to the correct fact.



8. Do you think you would enjoy being a spectator at Wimbledon? Explain why.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think I would enjoy being a spectator at Wimbledon because it would be a great atmosphere and I might get to see some famous players.

Wimbledon

Wimbledon is a global tennis tournament held annually in the UK. For the best players in the world, it is one they want to win.

Rich History



'The Championships, Wimbledon' is often simply known as Wimbledon. It is an event famous for serving strawberries and cream and is the oldest tennis tournament in the world. In fact, players have been serving and volleying on the grass courts of Wimbledon since 1877!

In that time, there have been many brilliant players who have lifted the celebrated Wimbledon trophies. The COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of the tournament in 2020. The 2021 event is scheduled to go ahead with plans for greater social distancing between spectators.

Money, Money, Money

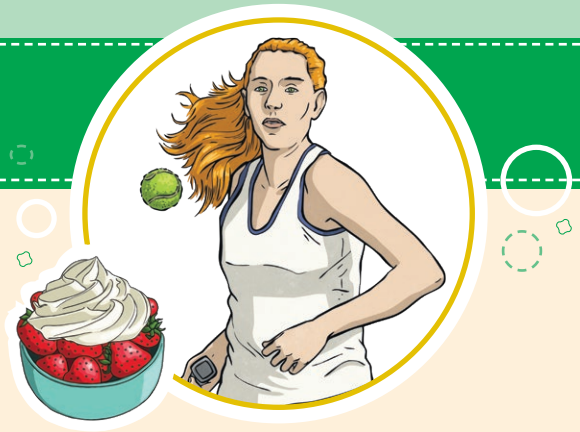


On top of receiving the title, which comes with being crowned Wimbledon champion, players also receive prize money. In recent years, the finalists of the men's and women's singles titles have received over £2 million.

When Does It All Start?

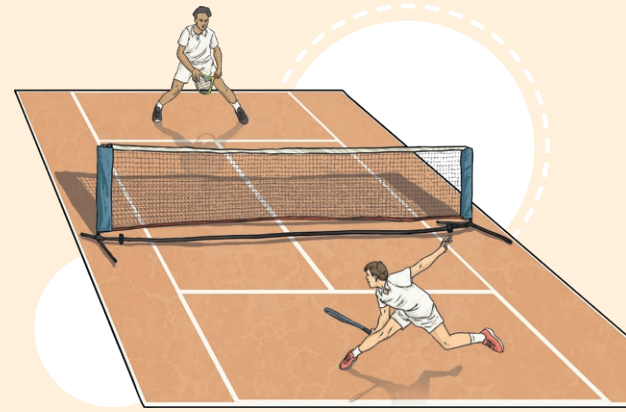
Qualifying starts in June but the top seeds (best players) begin the battle for the title in July, when The Championships, Wimbledon officially commences.

There are many tournaments and titles to be won in the two weeks that Wimbledon lasts. Along with the men's and women's singles matches, there are men's doubles, women's doubles and mixed doubles, alongside wheelchair and junior events.



Playing the Game

Wimbledon is very different to how tennis was when it was invented in France in the 12th century.



Originally, a ball was hit with the palm of the hand but now players strike the ball with a racquet. Sometimes, this can be incredibly fast.

The record speed for a serve at Wimbledon is 238 kilometres per hour, which is about the same speed as an average helicopter.

Here are five more fun facts about Wimbledon:

1. **Players must wear white.**

Wimbledon has a strict dress code. Umpires can ask a player to change if they're not happy with what they are wearing. In 2013, the Wimbledon champion was ordered to change his shoes because they had orange soles.

2. **The balls can't be white!**

Originally, Wimbledon matches were played with white balls but that all changed when TV viewers complained that they couldn't see them flying over the net! In 1986, the balls were changed to yellow.

3. **The tennis balls are kept in the fridge!**

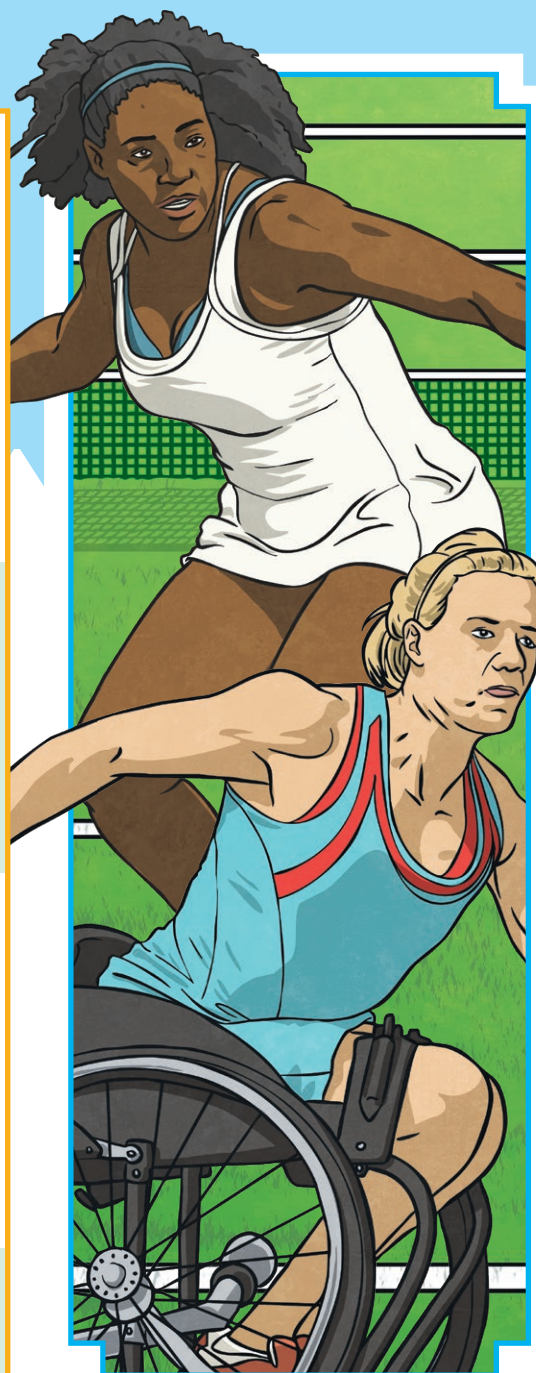
Tennis balls are changed after every seven to nine games in a Wimbledon match. To make sure new ones are in perfect condition, they are stored in fridges! Over **54,000** balls are used during Wimbledon each year.

4. **It's not easy being a ballboy or ballgirl.**

Ballgirls and ballboys kneel at the side of the court and pounce on any loose tennis balls which come near them during a game. Ballboys and ballgirls often come from local London schools after being nominated by their headteachers. If chosen, nominees must pass written and fitness tests before being given the job.

5. **Matches aren't always quick.**

Usually, matches are finished within a few hours. However, in 2010, viewers witnessed a match that spanned over an incredible three days! The total time on court for the players was 11 hours and five minutes.



Questions

1. Which **three** of these are correct? Wimbledon is known for....

- grass courts
- being the oldest tournament in the world
- clay courts
- strawberries and cream

2. **In that time, there have been many brilliant players who have lifted the celebrated Wimbledon trophies.**

Give another word or phrase which the author could have used instead of 'celebrated'.

3. **In recent years, the finalists of the men's and women's singles titles have received over £2 million.**

Explain how you would feel if you had won Wimbledon.

4. Explain the difference between tennis as it was played in France in the 12th century and how it is played today.

5. Fill in the missing words.

Wimbledon has a strict dress _____. _____ can ask a player to change if they're not happy with what they are wearing.

6. Why are the tennis balls stored in fridges?

7. Which fact about Wimbledon surprised you most in this text? Explain your answer.

8. Draw **four** lines to match each number to the correct fact.

2

The number of hours that the longest Wimbledon match lasted (rounded to the nearest hour).

11

The number of balls used during Wimbledon each year.

1877

The year Wimbledon began.

54,000

The number of weeks Wimbledon lasts for each year.

Answers

1. Which **three** of these are correct? Wimbledon is known for....

- grass courts**
- being the oldest tournament in the world**
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2. **In that time, there have been many brilliant players who have lifted the celebrated Wimbledon trophies.**

Give another word or phrase which the author could have used instead of 'celebrated'.

Pupils' own responses, such as: famous; well-known; much-wanted; precious.

3. **In recent years, the finalists of the men's and women's singles titles have received over £2 million.**

Explain how you would feel if you had won Wimbledon.

Pupils' own responses, such as: If I had won Wimbledon, I would feel proud and emotional for winning such a historic tennis tournament. I would also feel happy to have won the prize money.

4. Explain the difference between tennis as it was played in France in the 12th century and how it is played today.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Originally in France in the 12th century, a ball was hit with the palm of the hand. Today, players strike the ball with a racquet.

5. Fill in the missing words.

Wimbledon has a strict dress **code**. **Umpires** can ask a player to change if they're not happy with what they are wearing.

6. Why are the tennis balls stored in fridges?

The tennis balls are stored in fridges to make sure they are in perfect condition.

7. Which fact about Wimbledon surprised you most in this text? Explain your answer.
Pupils' own responses, such as: I was most surprised to read that one match lasted for 11 hours five minutes. That must have been a very long time to play for and the players must have been extremely tired.

8. Draw **four** lines to match each number to the correct fact.

