

## Sport: did you know

1. Shuttlecocks used in professional badminton are made of feathers from the left wing of a goose. Feathers from the right wing make them spin the wrong way.
2. Tarzan competed in the Olympics: Johnny Weissmuller, an athlete-turned-actor who played Tarzan in 12 movies, won five gold medals in swimming in the 1920s.
3. Nearly half of the world's population watched both the 2010 and 2014 FIFA World Cup games.
4. The following sports are (sadly) not part of the Olympics anymore: solo synchronized swimming, tug of war, rope climbing, hot air ballooning, duelling pistol, tandem bicycle, swimming obstacle race, and plunge for distance. Luckily, live pigeon shooting was a one-shot and only part of the 1900 Olympics in Paris.
5. Golf has been played on the moon! It is only 1 of 2 sports to literally have been played out-of-this-world, along with the javelin throw. Back in 1971, Apollo 14 astronaut, Alan Shepard, swung a one-handed shot with a six-iron, which was all his pressure suit would allow.
6. The first women's cricket world cup in 1973 was two years earlier than the first men's cricket world cup in 1975.
7. Rowing Machines were used about 2500 years ago. Led by an Athenian admiral named Chabrias, the Athenian military trained on shore with wooden rowing machines. These machines let beginners master the rowing technique before joining a crew on the sea. At the same time, the warriors developed incredible head-to-toe muscular strength and endurance.
8. Hockey is the 2nd most played sport in the world after football.
9. A warm basketball is bouncier than a cold one because the molecules in the warm ball hit its inside surface at a higher speed.
10. As early rugby balls and footballs were made from pigs' bladders and they had to be blown up by breath alone, it was possible to become ill if blowing up a diseased bladder, and the wife of Richard Lindon, a man who made balls for Rugby School in the 19th Century, died after breathing in the air from too many bad bladders.
11. During the 1936 Berlin Games, two Japanese pole-vaulters tied for second place. Instead of competing again, they cut the silver and bronze medals in half and fused the two different halves together so that each of them had a half-silver and half-bronze medal.
12. Regular running training is good for improving the long-term stability of bones. Researchers at the University of Michigan concluded that 12-20 minutes of running three times a week can increase bone mineral density.
13. Henley Royal Regatta is on one of the straightest reaches of the Thames one mile and 550 yards.
14. Only four athletes have won medals in both the Winter and the Summer Olympics. Only one of them, Christa Ludinger-Rothenburger, won medals in the same year.
15. Football fans are very serious about their favourite sport. It's been reported that a French fan once shot another fan who supported the rival team twice: One shot for each goal made by the rival team.
16. Netball was first played in England in 1895.
17. The same whistle is used to kick off the opening game of every Rugby World Cup tournament. It is the Gil Evans whistle and was first blown by Gil Evans, the Welsh referee overseeing a match between England and New Zealand in 1905.
18. If a ship lost its captain during a voyage, the sailors would sail blue flags, indicating their loss. So if you're feeling blue, you're actually referring to the blue flags that used to sign the ship's crew is in mourning.
19. Ski ballet, in which competitors perform balletic and acrobatic movements on the snow, was an official freestyle skiing discipline from the 1960s until 2000.
20. Rufus – a Harris Hawk – is stationed at Wimbledon to keep its sky clear of local pigeons. Would you believe that this hawk has more than 10000 followers on Twitter?