

Year 2 General Studies  
*Australia's First Olympian*

Edwin Flack (1873-1935) was the first Australian to compete in the first Olympic Games of the modern era. The Games were held in Athens from 5 to 10 April 1896.

Edwin Flack, an accountant and, Australasian champion runner, is considered Australia's first Olympian. He won the 800-metre and 1500-metre sprints, took part in the marathon and won a bronze medal in doubles tennis.



Flack is considered not only Australia's first Olympian but our first Olympic champion, even though Australia did not come into existence officially until 1901. At the games, Flack competed for Great Britain, but he ran in his old Melbourne Grammar School shorts and singlet. By the end of the Games he possessed heroic status, and was followed in the streets by crowds who dubbed him The Lion of Athens.

**Did you know?**

Australia has sent competitors to every summer Olympic Games since 1896 and hosted two very successful games in Melbourne in 1956 and Sydney in 2000.



## Australia's First Olympian

### Questions

1. What year did Edwin Flack compete in the first modern Olympic Games?

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2. How many different events did Edwin Flack compete in? (Circle the correct answer)

2 / 4 / 6

3. Which two Australian cities have hosted Olympic games?

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4. What was Flack's nickname at the end of the Olympic Games?

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5. Australia has sent competitors to every summer Olympic Games since 1896.

True / False

6. Who is your favourite Australian Olympian, and what sport did they compete in?

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