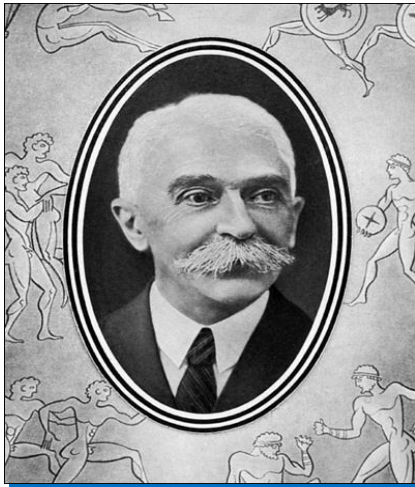


THE FATHER OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES



READ THE FOLLOWING TEXT CAREFULLY:

Coubertin was the idealist whose dream led to the modern Olympic Games. He was born on 1st January 1863 in Paris of an aristocratic family who lived in a private hotel in the city, and he graduated in arts, sciences and law. It was intended that he join the army, but he became interested in educational reform, writing numerous books throughout his life with titles like: *French Education during the 3rd republic* and *English Education in France*. He visited England several times in the 1880s having been

impressed with the ideas of Thomas Arnold, the headmaster of Rugby School many years earlier. He concluded that physical culture was an essential part of education, became secretary – general committee to propagate physical exercise, and after a visit to North of America decided that a movement to popularize international sport would be of great value to education and international harmony. On 25 November 1892 he first suggested the revival of the Olympic Games in a speech in Sorbonne. Several conferences and committees later he saw his ideal realized, and until 1925 when he retired as President of the International Olympic Committee he was the leading organizer of the Olympics. He married and had two children. He devoted so much of his fortune to pursuing his ideas that he was comparatively poor when he died in Geneva on 2 September 1937. His heart was taken to Olympia, in Greece, where a memorial was erected.

Source: "Growing up! 8ºano"

I

A – SAY WHETHER THESE STATEMENTS ARE TRUE OR FALSE:

1. Coubertin was a dreamer. _____
2. His family was very wealthy. _____
3. He had to go to the army. _____
4. He had no family of his own. _____
5. It was built a memorial in his honour in Olympia. _____

B – ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ACCORDING TO THE TEXT:

1. What was Coubertin dream?
2. Where was he born?
3. Did he go to the army?
4. What were his ideas about physical education?
5. What happened after his visit to North America?
6. When did he suggest the revival of the Olympic Games?

C – COMPLETE THESE SENTENCES ACCORDING TO THE TEXT:

1. Coubertin dream was _____.
2. He studied _____ but he _____.
3. He realized that physical culture _____.
4. According to Coubertin international sport was important because_____.
5. In a speech at the Sorbonne he proposed _____.
6. In 1925 he retired but remained _____.

D – WHAT / WHO DO THE UNDERLINED WORDS REFER TO:

1. Whose _____
2. Who _____
3. His _____
4. He _____
5. His _____
6. His _____

E – MATCH THESE WORDS WITH THEIR DEFINITIONS:

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Propagate | a) raised |
| 2. Revival | b) awakening |
| 3. Retired | c) spread |
| 4. Erected | d) to remove from active service |

II

A – Rewrite these sentences in the passive voice:

1. Coubertin wrote a few books about education. _____
2. He made several conferences. _____
3. He organized the revival of Olympics. _____

III

In your opinion, how important are the Olympic Games? Explain.
