**The First Marathon**

The marathon is a race of 42 km. This race was first run 2,500 years ago. Read about the history of this race.

(Video link: <https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/short-stories/the-first-marathon>)

**Teacher’s Notes / Lesson Plan**

* This is a story about the first marathon, which fits into the module“*Happy Days*” .
* Language item/structure:
* Simple past tense to describe activities or events in a story
* Vocabulary items: e.g. war, soldiers, messenger, empire, attack, army, enemy, capture, fight

**Warm-up**

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| **Duration** | 5 minutes |
| **Aims** | * To introduce the topic of the Olympics and introduce/review vocabulary items about Olympic sports
* To activate students’ prior knowledge
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| **Teaching Steps** | 1. Divide the class into teams. Ask them to list as many Olympic sports that they can think of in 3 minutes. Award points to the team with the longest list.
2. Introduce those which are not listed by the students.
3. Instruct each team to send a student to mime one of the Olympic sports.
4. Award points to the teams which get the correct answers.
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**Main Activity**

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| **Duration** | 15 minutes |
| **Aim** | * To develop students’ ability to listen for specific information
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| **Teaching Steps** | 1. Ask students the following questions:
* Do you like running?
* How far can you run?
* Do you know anybody who has run a marathon?
* How many kilometres is a marathon?
1. Tell students that they are going to watch a video which explains when and how the first marathon took place.
2. Ask students to discuss in groups the following questions:
* How far is a marathon? (42km)
* When was the marathon first run? (490 BC)
* Where was the first marathon run? (Marathon, Greece)
1. Play the video and have students check if their answers are correct.
2. Distribute the worksheet to students and have them complete Nos. 1-4. Students match the countries mentioned in the story with the correct nationality and complete the sentences which aim to facilitate their understanding of the story.
3. Allow students time to read No.5 before playing the video again, and pause at suitable intervals for students to fill in the gaps.
4. Check the answers with them.

Answers* + 1. Greece – Greeks; Sparta – Spartans;

Persia – Persians * + 1. Greece
		2. Persians, Greeks
		3. Persian, Greek
		4. (a) war (b) Athens (c) soldiers (d) two

(e) Marathon (f) Athens (g) 40 (h) died |

**Extension/Consolidation Activity**

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| **Duration** | 5 minutes |
| **Aim** | * To raise students’ awareness of the use of the simple past tense
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| **Teaching Steps** | 1. Ask students to circle all the examples of verbs in the simple past tense in the worksheet. This will help students notice the form and use of the simple past tense.
2. Ask students to circle the regular simple past verbs (with the ‘ed’) and underline the irregular simple past forms.
3. Ask students why we need to use past forms in a text like this (because it’s about history; all the actions are complete).
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