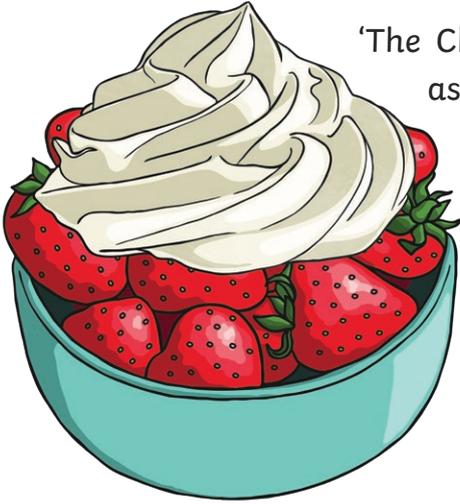


# Wimbledon

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 for 131 years! In that time, there have been many brilliant players who have lifted the celebrated Wimbledon trophies and this year promises to be the most-watched tournament ever.

## Money, Money, Money

On top of receiving the title, which comes with being crowned Wimbledon champion, players also receive prize money. This year, the winner of the men's and women's singles titles will receive over £2 million.



## Playing the Game



Wimbledon is very different to tennis in France in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, when it was invented. 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.

**When Does It All Start?**

Qualifying starts on 25<sup>th</sup> June but the top seeds (best players) begin the battle for the title on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, when The Championship, Wimbledon officially commences.

There are many tournaments and titles to be won in the few 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. 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'.

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3. **On top of receiving the title, which comes with being crowned Wimbledon champion, players also receive prize money. This year, the winner of the men's and women's singles titles will receive over £2 million.**

Explain what it must be like to win Wimbledon. Include your feelings and be as detailed as you can.

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4. What's different about the way tennis is played at Wimbledon compared to tennis in France in the 12th century?

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5. If you were an umpire at a Wimbledon match and one of the players was wearing a bright green and pink T-shirt, what would you say to them?

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6. Why might there be big fridges at Wimbledon?

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

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8. Join the 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.

131

The number of years that the tournament at Wimbledon has happened for.

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**
- 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'.

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

3. **On top of receiving the title, which comes with being crowned Wimbledon champion, players also receive prize money. This year, the winner of the men's and women's singles titles will receive over £2 million.**

Explain what it must be like to win Wimbledon. Include your feelings and be as detailed as you can.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: It would be amazing. I would feel proud and emotional for winning such an historic tennis tournament. It would feel like a really big achievement, plus I would feel happy because of all the prize money!**

4. What's different about the way tennis is played at Wimbledon compared to tennis in France in the 12<sup>th</sup> century?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Originally, a ball was hit with the palm of the hand but now players strike the ball with a racquet.**

5. If you were an umpire at a Wimbledon match and one of the players was wearing a bright green and pink T-shirt, what would you say to them?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I would say, "Excuse me, I'm sorry but you are not allowed to wear that shirt at Wimbledon. Please change it to a white one immediately!"**

6. Why might there be big fridges at Wimbledon?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: There might be big fridges at Wimbledon because the balls are kept in fridges and they use 54,000 of them which means you need a lot of space!**

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 tennis balls are kept in fridges because that is such an unusual place to keep them. I have never put my tennis ball in the fridge!**

8. Join the number to the correct fact:

