

b) Write a short Wikipedia entry about the championship.

LESSON 7.

UK and BY

Communicative area: talking about sports in the UK and Belarus

Active vocabulary: championship, competition, take place

1. Work in pairs. Share your opinions about the questions below.



1. Where were these photographs taken? 2. What are most popular sports in Belarus and Great Britain? 3. What competitions take place there? 4. Why are popular sports different in these countries?

to compete → **competition** champion → **championship**

2. a) Read the article about sports in UK. Were you right in ex.1?

Britain has a rich sports history. In fact, many of the world's most popular sports began in Britain. The United Kingdom has given birth to lots of great international sports including: football, rugby, cricket, golf, tennis, badminton, squash, hockey, boxing, and

billiards. It has also played a key role in the development of such sports as Sailing and Formula One.

About 29 million people over the age of 16 in the United Kingdom regularly take part in sport or exercise. Walking is the most popular physical activity.

The most popular individual sports include athletics, golf, motorsport, and horseracing. Tennis is the top sport for the two weeks of the Wimbledon Championships.

The four nations that make up the UK usually enter their own teams in international sports competitions.

Great British sporting events include the Football Cup Final, the Wimbledon tennis tournament, the Open Golf championship and the Grand National (a world-famous horserace). Cricket is popular in England and Wales, but is less popular in the other UK nations. And of course no one can forget England's World Champions luck in winning the Rugby World Cup in 2003.

b) Answer the questions below in pairs.

1. What team sports are popular in UK? 2. What individual sports are most popular? 3. What kind of sport do most people do? 4. What kind of sport do most people prefer to watch? 5. What are the most popular competitions that take place in Britain?

3. a) Read some statistics about sport in Belarus. Did you know that? In Belarus there are numerous sports facilities open for everybody.

1. 144 stadiums, 250 swimming pools, 4588 gymnasia, 332 swimming pools in kindergartens, 52 athletics centres, 35 ice rinks, 12,212 sports grounds. The most popular sports are: track and field athletics, football, gymnastics, skiing, hockey and tennis.



2. The Raubichi Centre in Belarus is one of the best biathlon centres in the world. Its facilities include: 6.2 km roller ski track, 20.5 km of ski tracks, free-style slopes, 20 m, 40 m and 60 m ski jumps, shooting grounds, indoor skating rink, a sports centre with gymnasiums, sport halls and swimming pools

3. Belarusians first took part in the Olympics in the 1952 Helsinki games, as part of a USSR team.

The country has an excellent record at the Olympic games. The first independent Belarus Olympic team took part in the 1994 Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer and won two silver medals.

At the London 2012 Summer Olympics Belarusian athletes won a total of 12 medals including 2 golds and 5 silvers. Belarus ranked 26rd in the Olympic medal count.

At the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi Belarusian athletes won six medals (5 gold and 1 bronze), providing 8th place in the medals table overall. There are 3 Olympic training centres in Belarus, in Staiki, Raubichi and Ratomka.

4. **Olga Korbut** is a sports icon who almost single-handedly turned gymnastics into the popular sport as we know it today. The legendary Belarusian gymnast won 4 Olympic Gold medals. In 1972 Korbut was named Best Sportswoman in the World.

Vitaly Shcherbo (gymnastics). A Belarusian gold medal winner at the XXV Olympic Games (Spain, 1992). The bronze medal winner at the XXVI Olympic Games (USA, 1996). World Champion 14 times , European Champion 10 times.

Igor Makarov won a gold medal in judo at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.

Julia Nesterenko won the 100 metres gold medal at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.

Maxim Mirnyi is the most famous Belarusian tennis player. He has won a series of international doubles titles and has led the Belarus national team to its best-ever result in the Davis Cup.

b) Work in pairs to discuss the questions in ex. 2b about Belarus. Use the information above and your ideas.

4. a) Make up a conversation in pairs.

Situation: Two friends (one from Belarus, one from Britain) haven't seen each other for ages. They meet and stop to talk about sports in their countries.

b) Role-play your conversations. Try to sound as natural as possible.

LESSON 8.

Popular sports

Communicative area: sharing information

Active vocabulary: soccer

Active grammar: articles with sports and sport events

1. a) Read a piece of news. What records did the Belarusian team set at the Olympics?