

Wimbledon

Wimbledon is one of the world's most important tennis tournaments. Lots of players all want to win the grand prize.

Rich History

Wimbledon is famous for serving strawberries and cream and was the first tennis tournament to ever take place. Wimbledon began in 1877 and many brilliant players have won the grand prize during that time. and many brilliant players have won the grand prize during that time.



Money, Money, Money

The players that win the tournament at Wimbledon are given a lot of prize money. In 2019, the winners will receive over £2 million!

Playing the Game

The early rounds start in June but the main matches at Wimbledon begin in July. To begin with, a ball was hit with the inside part of the hand but things have changed a lot since then. These days, players use a racquet (racket) which makes the ball travel a lot quicker. When a player starts a new point, they throw the ball above their head and hit it hard. This is called a serve. The fastest speed for a serve at Wimbledon is 238 kilometres per hour. This is about the same speed as an average helicopter.

Here are five more fun facts about Wimbledon:

1. **Players must wear white.**

Umpires can ask a player to change their clothes if they're not wearing white.

2. **The balls can't be white!**

To begin with, Wimbledon matches were played with white tennis balls. However, that was changed when TV viewers couldn't see them! In 1986, the balls were changed to yellow.

3. **The tennis balls are kept in the fridge!**

To make sure they are in perfect condition, tennis balls are stored in fridges! Over **54,000** balls are used during Wimbledon.

4. **It's not easy being a ballboy or ballgirl.**

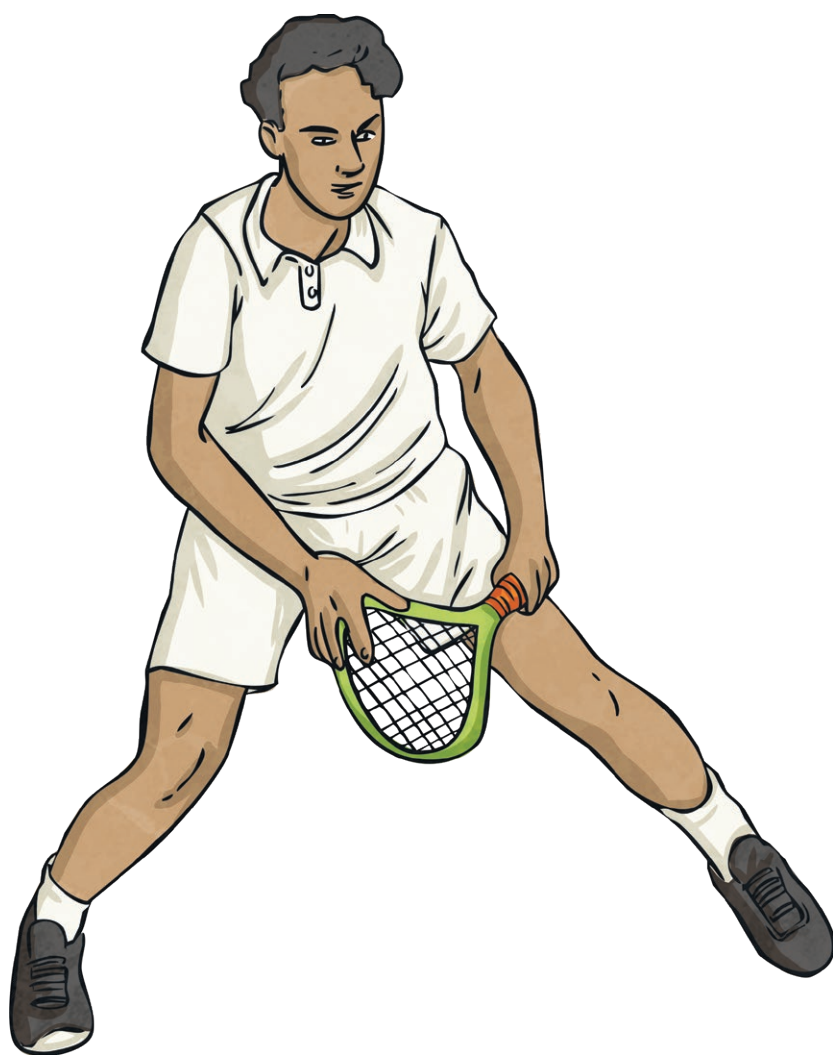
Ballgirls and ballboys kneel at the side of the court and grab any loose tennis balls which come near them during a game. Ballboys and ballgirls often come from local London schools but have to pass lots of tests to be given the job.

5. **Matches aren't always quick.**

In 2010, a match spanned over an incredible three days! The players spent 11 hours 5 minutes hitting balls to one another!

When Does It All Start?

The early rounds start on 25th June but the main matches at Wimbledon begin on 2nd July. 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 of these is the best description of Wimbledon? Tick **one**.

- ☐ a softball tournament
- ☐ the newest tennis tournament in the world
- ☐ one of the world's most important tennis tournaments
- ☐ the only tennis tournament in the world

2. When did Wimbledon begin?

3. How much money will the winners of Wimbledon get? Tick **one**.

- ☐ £2
- ☐ £54
- ☐ £54,000
- ☐ over £2 million

4. What changed in 1986?

5. Draw a line to the correct sentence ending.

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incredible three days.

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The fastest speed for a
serve at Wimbledon

is 238 kilometres per hour.

6. Number these to show the order that they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.

- ☐ Tennis was first played hundreds of years ago in France.
- ☐ Umpires can ask a player to change their clothes if they're not wearing white.
- ☐ Tennis balls are stored in fridges!
- ☐ The main matches at Wimbledon begin in July.
- ☐ Wimbledon is famous for serving strawberries and cream.

7. **Matches aren't always quick.**

Find this part in the text. Describe in detail how you would have felt if you were the losing player in that game.

Answers

1. Which of these is the best description of Wimbledon? Tick **one**.

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- ☐ the newest tennis tournament in the world
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2. When did Wimbledon begin?

Wimbledon began in 1877.

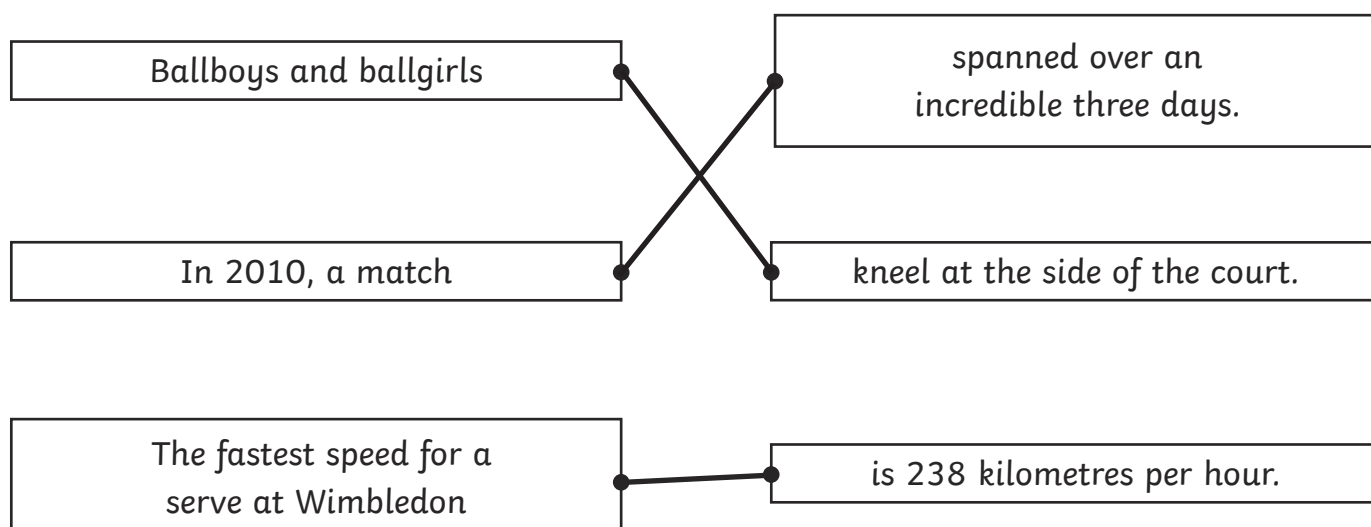
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In 1986, the balls were changed from white to yellow.

5. Draw a line to the correct sentence ending.



6. Number these to show the order that they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.

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- 3** Umpires can ask a player to change their clothes if they're not wearing white.
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- 5** The main matches at Wimbledon begin in July.
- 1** Wimbledon is famous for serving strawberries and cream.

7. **Matches aren't always quick.**

Find this part in the text. Describe in detail how you would have felt if you were the losing player in that game.

Pupils' own responses, such as: After putting so much into the game, I would have been so disappointed as well as really tired, but proud that I entertained all those people for so long and played as well as I could.

Wimbledon

Wimbledon is played on grass and is the oldest tennis tournament in the world. Many popular and skilled players want to win the grand prize.

Rich History



'The Championships, Wimbledon' is famous for serving strawberries and cream and was the first tennis tournament to ever take place. In fact, players have been hitting balls at Wimbledon since 1877! In that time, there have been many brilliant players who have won the grand prize.

Money, Money, Money

The players get a lot of prize money for winning Wimbledon. In recent years, the winner of the men's and women's singles titles have received over £2 million.

Playing the Game

The matches at Wimbledon are very different to how tennis was played when it was invented in France in the 12th century. To begin with, a ball was hit with the palm of the hand. These days, Wimbledon players strike the ball with a racquet and this can be really fast. The record speed for a serve at Wimbledon (when players throw the ball in the air and hit it from above their head), is 238 kilometres per hour. This is about the same speed as an average helicopter.

Here are five more fun facts about Wimbledon:



1. **Players must wear white.**

Umpires can ask a player to change if they're not wearing white. In 2013, the Wimbledon champion was told to change his shoes because they had orange soles!

2. **The balls can't be white!**

To begin with, Wimbledon matches were played with white tennis balls. However, that was changed when TV viewers complained that they couldn't see them! In 1986, the balls were changed to yellow.

3. The tennis balls are kept in the fridge!

New balls are used all the time in a tennis match. To make sure they 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 grab any loose tennis balls which come near them during a game. Ballboys and ballgirls often come from local London schools and, if picked, have to pass written and fitness tests before being given the job.

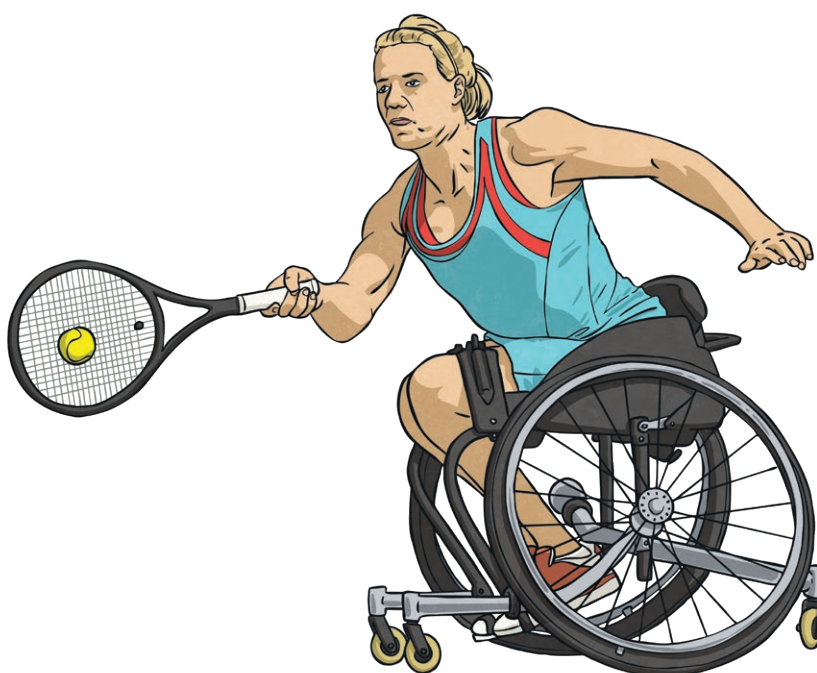
5. Matches aren't always quick.

Usually, matches are finished within a few hours. However, in 2010, a match spanned over an incredible three days! The total time on court was 11 hours and five minutes.

When Does It All Start?

Qualifying starts in June but the main matches at Wimbledon begin in July.

There are many titles to be won in the two 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. What is the full name of the Wimbledon tournament?

2. Which statements are true? Tick **two**.

- ☐ Wimbledon began in 1877.
- ☐ The only food at Wimbledon is strawberries and cream.
- ☐ Wimbledon is the oldest tennis tournament in the world.
- ☐ Wimbledon is the only tennis tournament in the world.

3. Why was the Wimbledon champion told to change his shoes?

4. Which of these would you find at Wimbledon? Tick **two**.

- ☐ yellow balls
- ☐ referees
- ☐ shuttlecocks
- ☐ ballboys and ballgirls

5. Number these to show the order that they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.

- ☐ In 2010, a match spanned over an incredible three days!
- ☐ There have been many brilliant players who have won the grand prize.
- ☐ To begin with, Wimbledon matches were played with white tennis balls.
- ☐ The players get a lot of prize money for winning Wimbledon.
- ☐ There are many titles to be won in the few weeks that Wimbledon lasts for.

6. Imagine you are a tennis player at Wimbledon. Explain how it would make you feel. Include lots of detail.

7. Join the number to the correct fact:

11

The number of balls used during Wimbledon each year.

1877

The amount of pounds award for winning Wimbledon.

54,000

The number of hours the longest Wimbledon match lasted for.

over 2 million

The year Wimbledon began.

8. Imagine it is a sunny day and you are watching a match at Wimbledon. Describe the scene as best as you can. Think about what you can see, hear and smell.

Answers

1. What is the full name of the Wimbledon tournament?

The full name of the Wimbledon tournaments is The Championships, Wimbledon.

2. Which statements are true? Tick **two**.

Wimbledon began in 1877.

- ☐ The only food at Wimbledon is strawberries and cream.
- ☐ **Wimbledon is the oldest tennis tournament in the world.**
- ☐ Wimbledon is the only tennis tournament in the world.

3. Why was the Wimbledon champion told to change his shoes?

The Wimbledon champion was told to change his shoes because they had orange soles and players have to wear white.

4. Which of these would you find at Wimbledon? Tick **two**.

- ☐ **yellow balls**
- ☐ referees
- ☐ shuttlecocks
- ☐ **ballboys and ballgirls**

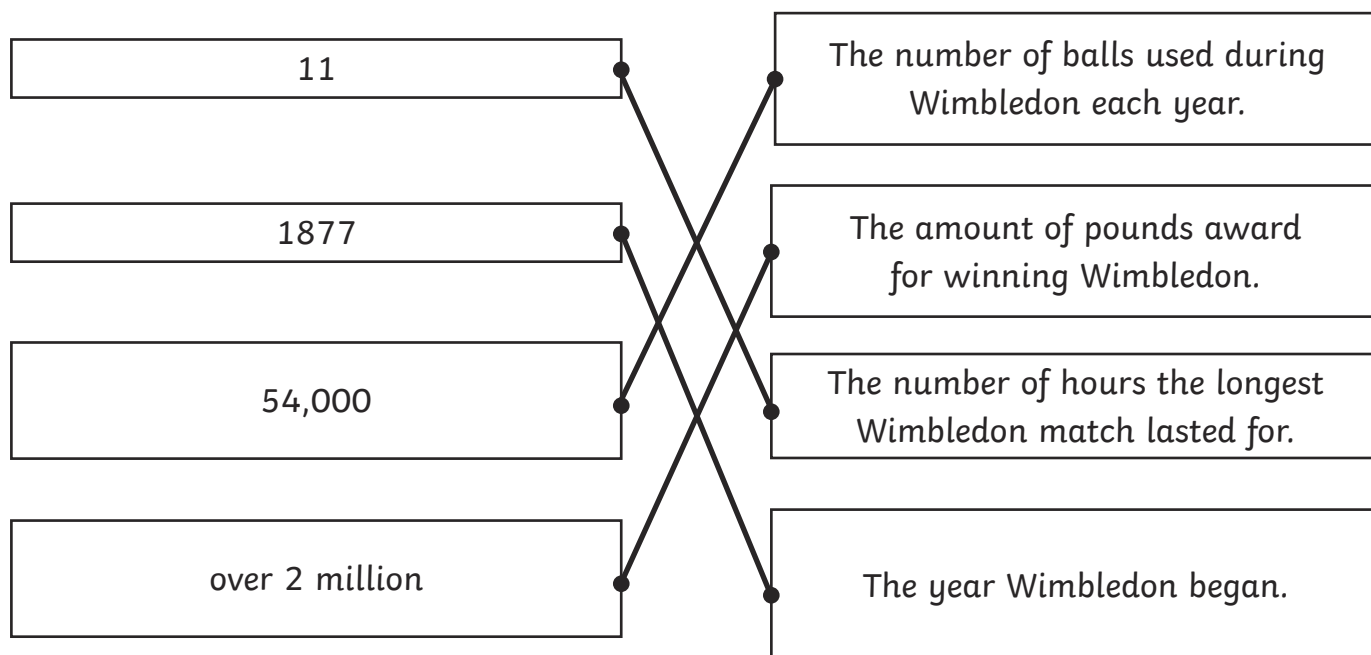
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- 4** In 2010, a match spanned over an incredible three days!
- 1** There have been many brilliant players who have won the grand prize.
- 3** To begin with, Wimbledon matches were played with white tennis balls.
- 2** The players get a lot of prize money for winning Wimbledon.
- 5** There are many titles to be won in the few weeks that Wimbledon lasts for.

6. Imagine you were a tennis player at Wimbledon. Explain how it would make you feel. Include lots of detail.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I would be really nervous but proud to be taking part in such an historic event. It's the oldest tennis tournament in the world so I would be really keen and excited to play.

7. Join the number to the correct fact:



8. Imagine it is a sunny day and you are watching a match at Wimbledon. Describe the scene as best as you can. Think about what you can see, hear and smell.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I can hear the thumping of balls being hit and I can see players running backwards and forwards across the court. There is the smell of strawberries and cut grass in the air.

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



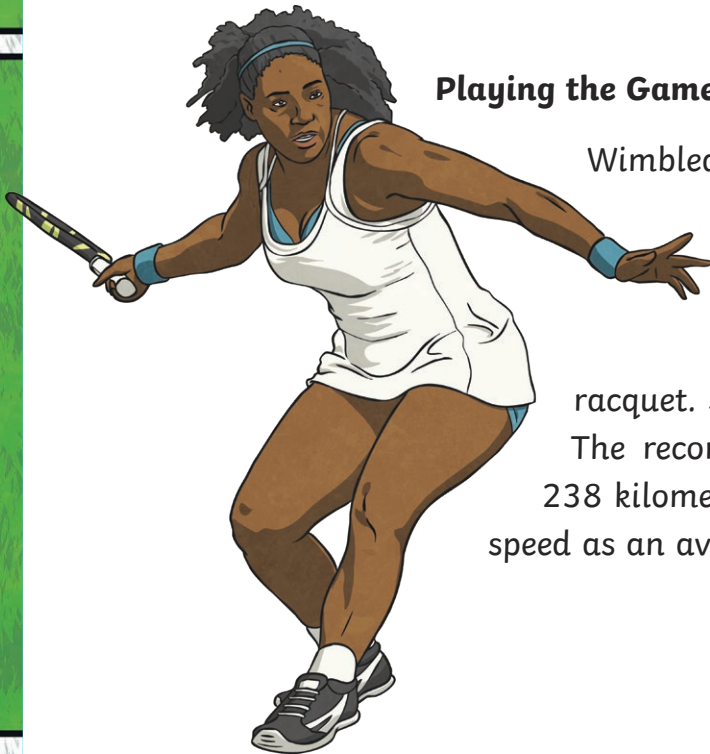
'The Championships, Wimbledon' is often simply known as Wimbledon. It is an event famous for serving strawberries and cream and is the oldest tennis tournament in the world. In fact, players have been serving and volleying on the grass courts of Wimbledon for since 1877! In that time, there have been 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. In recent years, the winner of the men's and women's singles titles have received over £2 million.



Playing the Game



Wimbledon is very different to tennis in France in the 12th 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?

to Qualifying starts in June but the top seeds (best players) begin the battle for the title in 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'.

3. **In recent years, the winner of the men's and women's singles titles have received over £2 million.**

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

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

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?

6. Why might there be big fridges at Wimbledon?

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

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.

1877

The year Wimbledon began.

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. **In recent years, the winner of the men's and women's singles titles have received 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 12th 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:

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.
1877	•	•	The year Wimbledon began.
54,000	•	•	The number of weeks Wimbledon lasts for each year.

