

The Wimbledon Championships

Wimbledon is the world's oldest tennis tournament and is also thought to be the most prestigious. Since 1877 it has been held at the All England Club in Wimbledon, London. It is one of the four Grand Slam tennis tournaments (majors), the others being the French Open, the Australian Open and the US Open. Wimbledon is the only major still played on traditional grass, the game's original surface, which gave the game its original name of 'lawn tennis'.



Events

The five main events are the gentlemen's singles, ladies' singles, gentlemen's doubles, ladies' doubles and mixed doubles.

There are also four junior events and invitation events where some former professionals return to compete. In addition to this, there are wheelchair singles and doubles matches.

Tickets

The majority of centre court tickets are made available by a public ballot where applicants are selected at random by a computer. Fans without tickets can queue up overnight to get seats on match day.

Schedule

In 2017, the championships began and ended in July, making the gap between the tournament and the French Open a little longer. Usually, there is no play on the 'Middle Sunday', however bad weather has sometimes meant that matches are played on this day.

The Courts

The main court, Centre Court, was opened in 1922. In 2009, a moving roof was added to this court which can be automatically closed.

The main courts, Centre Court and No. 1 Court, are normally only used for two weeks every year during the championships. The other 17 courts are used for other events hosted by the club.

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Trophies and Prize Money

The gentlemen's singles champion receives a silver gilt cup and the women's singles champion wins a sterling silver salver which is decorated with figures from mythology. The prize money for the winners of the singles titles runs into the millions!

A Few Famous Champions

Serena Williams, and her sister Venus, have won Wimbledon several times. They have even competed against each other in the singles final.

Roger Federer won Wimbledon five times in a row between 2003 and 2007, a period where he totally dominated grass court tennis.

In 2013, Sir Andy Murray won the men's singles title. He was the first British singles winner since 1977 and the first male winner since 1936!

Did You Know?

- Tennis players' clothing must be all-white, or at least almost all-white.
- Players must bow or curtsy if HRH The Prince of Wales or Her Majesty the Queen is present in the Royal Box at Centre Court.
- An average of 86,000 ice creams are sold during the championships and 28,000kg of strawberries are consumed.



1. Which club is the tournament held at? _____

2. Grand Slams are also called _____

3. Why did Wimbledon start later in 2017?

4. What can tennis fans do if they don't win a ticket in the public ballot but want to go and see a tennis match during the tournament?

5. Centre Court was first opened in:

- 1920
- 1922
- 1926
- 1927

6. What is unique about Centre Court compared to the other courts?

7. Who wins the sterling silver salver?

- Men's singles winner
- Ladies singles winner
- Boy's singles winner
- Mixed doubles winners

8. Link up the beginning of each sentence with the end of each sentence:

Former professionals

was the first British male singles champion winner at Wimbledon since 1936.

The Williams sisters

dominated grass tennis between 2003 and 2007.

Roger Federer

have competed against each other in the singles final.

Sir Andy Murray

can be invited to return to compete.

9. 'An average of 89,000 ice creams are sold during the championships and 28,000kg of strawberries are consumed.'

What is wrong with this statement? Correct it below:

10. What qualities do you think a person needs to become a Wimbledon champion?

Plastic Pollution

When people think about plastic, they may think of lots of everyday items that make our lives easier: food wrappers, toys, gadgets and even the pipes that carry water to and from our homes. In fact, plastic is so popular in the UK today that it is hard to imagine life without it.



However, while plastic makes human lives easier, it makes the lives of Britain's wildlife much harder. It could be putting the existence of some of our much-loved creatures in danger.



Plastic Waste Facts

160,000 plastic bags are used around the world every second.



8 out of 10 pieces of plastic made over the last 70 years have been thrown away.



Of all of the plastic waste created by 2015: 9% recycled, 12% burned, 79% in landfills or the natural environment.

Plastic and the Environment

There are many different ways that plastic can enter the environment:

- litter;
- washed down drains;
- spilled by ships;
- escaped from factories;
- blown out of bins;
- abandoned by humans.



So much plastic enters the environment each year that it can be found in fresh water, soil, air and oceans around the world.

The Problem with Plastic

Unlike paper, fruit peel or fabric, most types of plastic that end up in the local environment will not break down over time. The plastic will simply stay where it is forever unless it is moved by humans or eaten, by mistake, by wildlife.

A huge problem with plastic is the chemicals it contains. Over time, pieces of plastic litter will break into smaller pieces. These smaller pieces are often eaten by wildlife that think that it's food. Scarily, these tiny pieces of plastic contain poisonous chemicals and heavy metals that can kill wildlife. The chemicals make their way into the food chain and do not just affect the creature who ate the plastic but also affect any animal that



Female Mallard By Water With Rubbish by Martin Kessel

then consumes them.

Threats to Wildlife

The largest threats to wildlife from plastic waste in the environment are:

- becoming tangled in plastic waste which can cause death or injury;
- eating plastic waste by mistake which can cause wildlife to choke;
- poisoning from the chemicals within the plastic which can lead to illness and death.



How We Can Help

People around the world have caused the plastic problem we face today and it cannot be fixed overnight. The best way to stop any further harm to wildlife is by changing how we think about and use plastic. Some helpful tips are:

- Instead of using plastic items, such as straws and plastic bags, buy reusable items, e.g. Flasks for hot drinks and canvas shopping bags.
- Glitter (which is often made of plastic) and balloons can also be damaging to the environment and dangerous to animals, who may mistake them for food.
- Recycle as much of your waste as possible.
- Safely pick up litter you see in the environment.



1. Which of these is not a way that plastic enters the environment? Tick one.

- by being blown out of bins
- by being abandoned by humans
- by being dug up from the ground
- by being washed down drains

2. Number the sub-headings to show the order they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.

- The Problem with Plastic
- 1 Plastic Waste Facts
- Threats to Wildlife
- Plastic and the Environment
- How We Can Help

3. List two everyday items mentioned in the text which can be made from plastic.

- _____
- _____

4. How many plastic bags are used around the world each second?

5. Find and copy one adjective from the first paragraph which is used to describe plastic.

6. Fully explain why the chemicals within plastic endanger wildlife.

7. Discuss one of the largest threats to wildlife from plastic waste in the environment.

8. Comment on one change you could make to help to reduce plastic pollution.
