Early Olympic Timeline

Before 776 B.C.	**Ancient Greece** Athletic contests are held at Olympia every four years, between August 6 and September 19. Records reach back as far as 776 B.C., but it is generally accepted that the Olympic Games had already been held for several centuries before that. The Games originally consist only of foot races. Other events are gradually added, starting with wrestling and the pentathlon.
A.D. 394	Roman Emperor Theodosius I abolishes the Games, as part of a series of reforms against pagan practices. Top
1894	At the urging of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) is founded.
1896	**Athens Games** The first modern Olympic Games. 14 countries are represented by about 245 men, competing in 43 events. No women compete, as de Coubertin feels that their inclusion would be "impractical, uninteresting, unaesthetic, and incorrect." Top
1900	**Paris Games** The second modern Games are overshadowed by, and incorporated into, the Paris Exposition. 1,319 men from 26 countries compete in 75 events, although it's not entirely clear—even to some of the participants—which events are actually part of the Olympics. Eleven women are allowed to compete in lawn tennis and golf.
1904	**St. Louis Games** Only 13 countries show up. Fred Lorz rides in a car for eleven miles during the marathon, but is briefly taken as being the winner anyway. Top
1906	**Intercalated Games** The first, last, and only Intercalated Games are held in Athens, as the Greeks plan to hold interim Games between Olympics every four years. While these bolster the Olympics' flagging reputation, medals won here are considered unofficial by the IOC.
1908	**London Games** The 1906 eruption of Mt. Vesuvius requires the Games to move from Rome to London. For the first time, athletes march into the stadium behind their nations' flags. There are more than 2,000 competitors in more than 100 events. Italian Dorando Pietri needs to be helped across the finish line of the marathon, but is declared the winner before being disqualified in favor of Johnny Hayes of the U.S. Top