

Friday 3rd July 2020

Guided reading – WALT - infer and retrieve information from a text

Happy Friday everybody. Today we are going to recap on our inference and retrieval skills.

I wonder if any of you play or watch tennis. Can you name any great tennis players? Wimbledon is one of the most famous tennis tournaments and takes place every year. Unfortunately the Championships 2020 will be cancelled due to public health concerns linked to the coronavirus epidemic.



Hopefully we will all be able to enjoy the game very soon. Until then let us refresh our memories of this tournament.

Read the text and answer the questions.

## Wimbledon

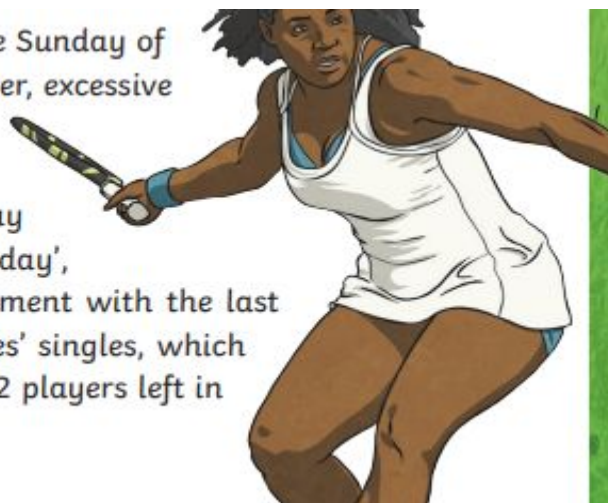


Also known as 'The All England Lawn Tennis Championships' or simply 'Wimbledon', The Championships, Wimbledon is the oldest tennis tournament in the world and was first held in 1877 at the All England Club in Wimbledon, London. Wimbledon is one of the four global grand slam tennis tournaments; the others being the Australian Open (held in Melbourne), the French Open (held in Paris) and the US Open, which is held in New York. Since the Australian Open altered to use hardcourts in 1988, Wimbledon is now the only major tournament still played on grass courts.

Summer is a busy time for tennis players with all the grand slams taking place and, although traditionally, Wimbledon took place over two weeks in late June and early July, it has recently been altered to begin in early July to allow players more rest time between tournaments. During the tournament, the main events are for Gentlemen's Singles, Ladies' Singles, Gentlemen's Doubles, Ladies' Doubles and Mixed Doubles. Both the Gentlemen's and Ladies' Singles consist of 128 players in total, who are made up of those players with the highest international rankings (seeded players), qualifiers and wild cards. Wimbledon is a single-elimination tournament, meaning that the player who can win seven times in a row wins the tournament as other players are 'knocked-out'. A seeded player usually wins, in both the Gentlemen's and Ladies' Single competitions.



Traditionally, there is no play on the middle Sunday of the tournament, which is a rest day. However, excessive rain during the first week has forced play on the middle Sunday four times, in 1991, 1997, 2004 and 2016. The second Monday at Wimbledon is often called 'Manic Monday', because it is the busiest day of the tournament with the last 16 matches for both Gentlemen's and Ladies' singles, which means that fans could see any of the best 32 players left in the tournament on this day!



## The History of Wimbledon

The first Wimbledon Championship consisted of only the Gentlemen's Singles, which was won by Englishman Spencer Gore. Paying one shilling (about 20p in modern money) each, around 200 spectators watched the final. In 1884, the club added Gentlemen's Doubles and Ladies' Singles competitions; Ladies' Doubles and Mixed Doubles were added in 1913.

The Championship was first televised in 1937 and is now a major event; it is widely considered to be the world's top tennis tournament with finals watched by over 10 million people! In recent years, many improvements have been made to ensure that Wimbledon keeps its elite title. One of the main alterations was the addition of a retractable roof on Centre Court in 2009, which means that matches can continue even during rain.

## Wimbledon Traditions

### Ballboys and Ballgirls

The job of ballboys and ballgirls (BBGs), who are provided by local schools, is to collect any balls that go out of play during a game. To become a BBG, children must pass a number of tests and complete a training phase to ensure that they are able to 'blend into the background and get on with their jobs quietly'. It is a great honour to be chosen for this role.

### Did You Know...?

In 2017, fans ate 34,000kg of English strawberries and 10,000 litres of cream.



### Colours and Uniforms

The traditional colours of Wimbledon are dark green and purple however, all players in the tournament are expected to wear white tennis clothes. Green clothing in a 1930s design was worn by all officials until 2005 but, in 2006, more modern blue and cream uniforms were unveiled.

### Royal Family

Members of the Royal Family often attend Wimbledon and watch matches from the Royal Box. If HRH The Prince of Wales or Her Majesty The Queen are present, then players are expected to bow or curtsy as they enter Centre Court, as a sign of respect.

### Trophies

The Gentlemen's Singles champion is presented with a silver gilt (silver covered with gold leaf) cup, which is 47cm tall and 19cm in diameter. The actual trophy is the property of the All England Club, so the champion is given a three-quarter sized replica of the cup, which has the names of all past champions engraved on it.

The Ladies' Singles champion is presented with a sterling silver salver – or tray – which is 48cm in diameter and is decorated with figures from mythology. As with the silver gilt cup, the champion is given a three-quarter sized replica of the salver to keep.

The winners of the Gentlemen's Doubles, Ladies' Doubles, and Mixed Doubles events each receive silver cups.



## Questions

1. In which years did rain force play on the middle Sunday? Tick **all that apply**.

- 1991
- 1997
- 2009
- 2016

2. When does the tournament take place? When did it used to take place?

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3. Match the tennis grand slam to the correct fact.

Australian Open ●

US Open ●

Wimbledon ●

played on hardcourts since 1988 ●

the oldest tennis tournament in the world ●

played in New York ●

Now answer the comprehension questions.

4. Give two other names for the Wimbledon tournament.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Fill in the missing words from this sentence:

Both the Gentlemen's and Ladies' Singles consist of \_\_\_\_\_ in total, who are made up of those players with the highest international rankings (\_\_\_\_\_ players), qualifiers and \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Why do you think that a seeded player will usually win in both the Gentlemen's and Ladies' Single competitions?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Why do you think that there was only a Gentlemen's competition for the first seven years?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Why is it a great honour to be chosen to be a BBG?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Explain how uniforms have changed in 30 words or less.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Would you like to be a ballboy or ballgirl? Give two reasons to support your choice.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Answers

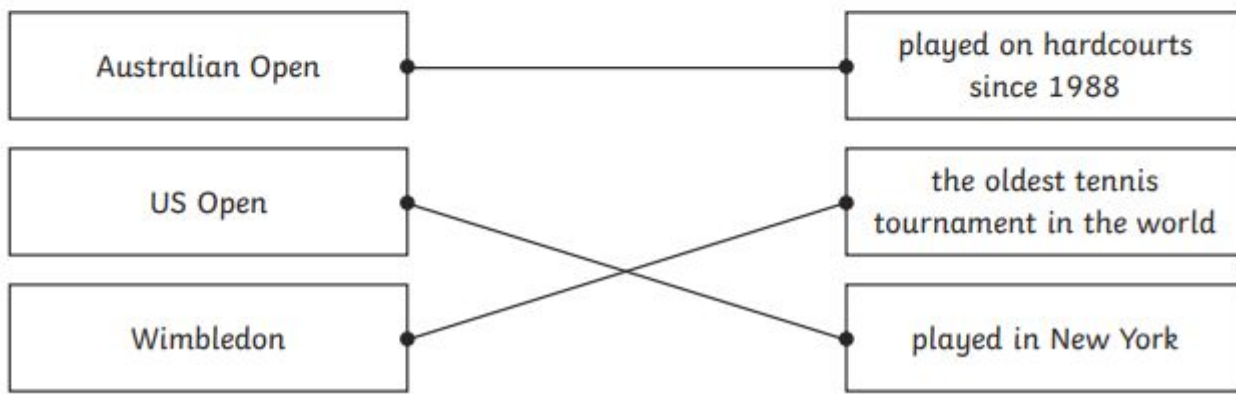
1. In which years did rain force play on the middle Sunday? Tick **all that apply**.

- 1991**
- 1997**
- 2009
- 2016**

2. When does the tournament take place? When did it used to take place?

**The tournament takes place in early July but it used to take place over two weeks in late June and early July.**

3. Match the tennis grand slam to the correct fact.



4. Give two other names for the Wimbledon tournament.

**Accept 'The All England Lawn Tennis Championships' and 'The Championships, Wimbledon'.**

5. Fill in the missing words from this sentence:

Both the Gentlemen's and Ladies' Singles consist of **128 players** in total, who are made up of those players with the highest international rankings (**seeded** players), qualifiers and **wild cards**.

6. Why do you think that a seeded player will usually win in both the Gentlemen's and Ladies' Single competitions?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Seeded players are the players with the highest international rankings so they are most likely to win because they will be likely to 'knock-out' their opponents (who are not seeded) throughout the competitions.**

7. Why do you think that there was only a Gentlemen's competition for the first seven years?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: During the Victorian era, women were not treated as**

**equals so would not have been offered the chance to participate in competitive sport in the same way as men.**

8. Why is it a great honour to be chosen to be a BBG?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Wimbledon is the world's top tennis tournament so you would feel very proud if you were chosen to be a BBG.**

9. Explain how uniforms have changed in 30 words or less.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: All officials used to wear 1930s style green clothing; in 2006, more modern navy and cream uniforms were unveiled.**

10. Would you like to be a ballboy or ballgirl? Give two reasons to support your choice.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I would not like to be a ballgirl because I do not enjoy tests and would struggle to keep quiet during the games.**