

Marathon Trivia Quiz Answers

The modern day marathon distance is now established at 26.2 miles. When was this distance first established?

- A. London Olympics 1908.

The marathon distance prior to this had generally been set at around 25 miles since the modern Olympic Games in Athens in 1896. It was agreed to increase the distance to 26 miles, but this was extended to 26.2 miles; why was this?

- A. So that the royal children could watch the start of race from their Nursery.

What marathon has the largest number of competitors?

- A. New York Marathon (nearly 50,000 competitors).

How many calories are burnt running a marathon?

- A. Whilst the exact number of calories burnt will vary between individuals, it is estimated that 2,620 calories are burnt on average.

Who was the slowest Olympic marathoner?

- A. Japanese runner, Shizo Kanakuri holds the world record for the slowest marathon (54 years, 8 months and 6 days, 5 hours and 32 minutes). After dropping out of the 1912 Stockholm Olympics (but not reporting this), he was invited back to finish the race some 50 years later

How many strides will a runner make during a marathon?

- A. On average it is estimated that a marathon runner will take 33,000 strides running a marathon.

When was the first marathon run?

- A. Legend has it that after the Greek victory over the Persians in 490 B.C. a soldier named Pheidippides ran 25 miles from the battlefield in Marathon in Greece to Athens to deliver the great news. Upon arrival in Athens he cheered "rejoice, we are victorious" and then collapsed and died.

In which city was the earliest modern day marathon run and in what year?

- A. Boston in 1897. Organised by the Boston Athletic Association 15 competitors lined up to run through Beantown in its inaugural year.

Where is the highest marathon (on Earth) held?

- A. The Everest marathon starts in Gorak Shep, Nepal at 5,184m (17,000 feet)

Who ran the first marathon in space?

- A. British Astronaut, Tim Peake ran the London Marathon from space in April 2016

Where is the lowest marathon held?

- A. The Tiberias marathon at 200 metres below sea level in the Jordan valley is considered to be the lowest.

What is thought to be the strangest marathon?

- A. The man versus horse marathon takes place each year in Llawrtyd in Wales. A horse has won every race for the first 24 years until elite marathoner Huw Lob, became the first human victor.