

Aquatic sports

Swimming, diving and **water polo** are called **aquatic sports**, because they take place in water.

In **synchronised** swimming, pairs or teams of eight have to perform a routine to music. The swimmers have to do all their movements at exactly the same time.

the USA's synchronised swimming team at the Sydney Olympics



Did you know?

In 1896, swimming events were held in the sea and in 1900 they were held in the River Seine in Paris. The swimmers recorded fast times because they swam with the current!

Did you know?

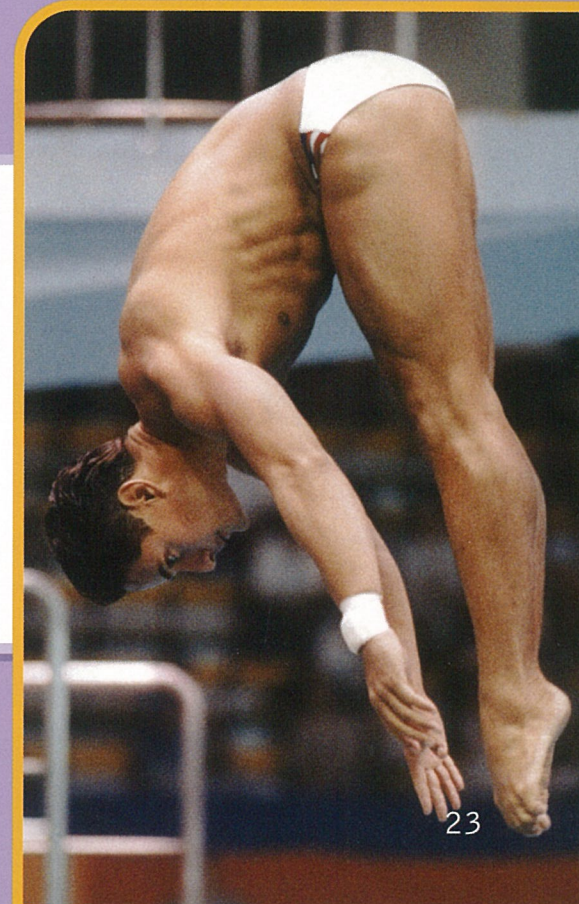
In 2008, the American swimmer Michael Phelps became the first person to win eight gold medals at one Olympics.



Diving events involve jumping from a 10-metre high platform or a 3-metre high springboard.

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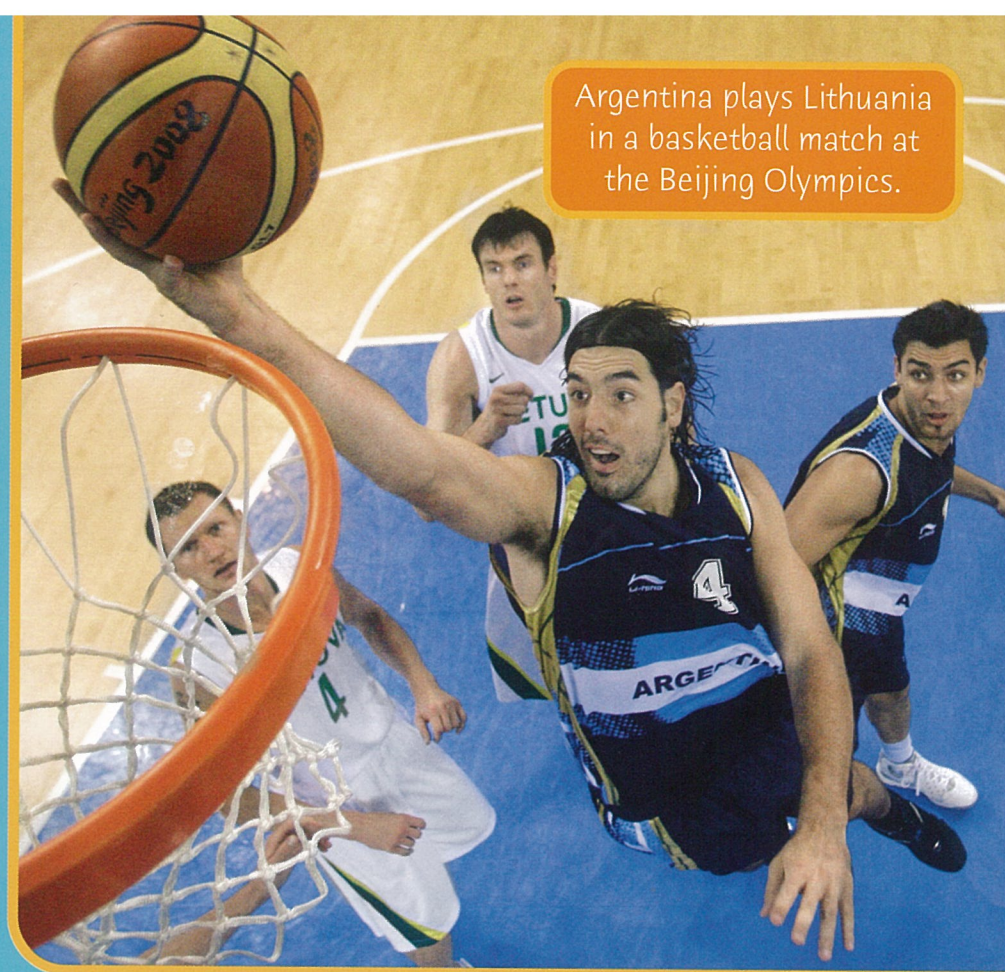
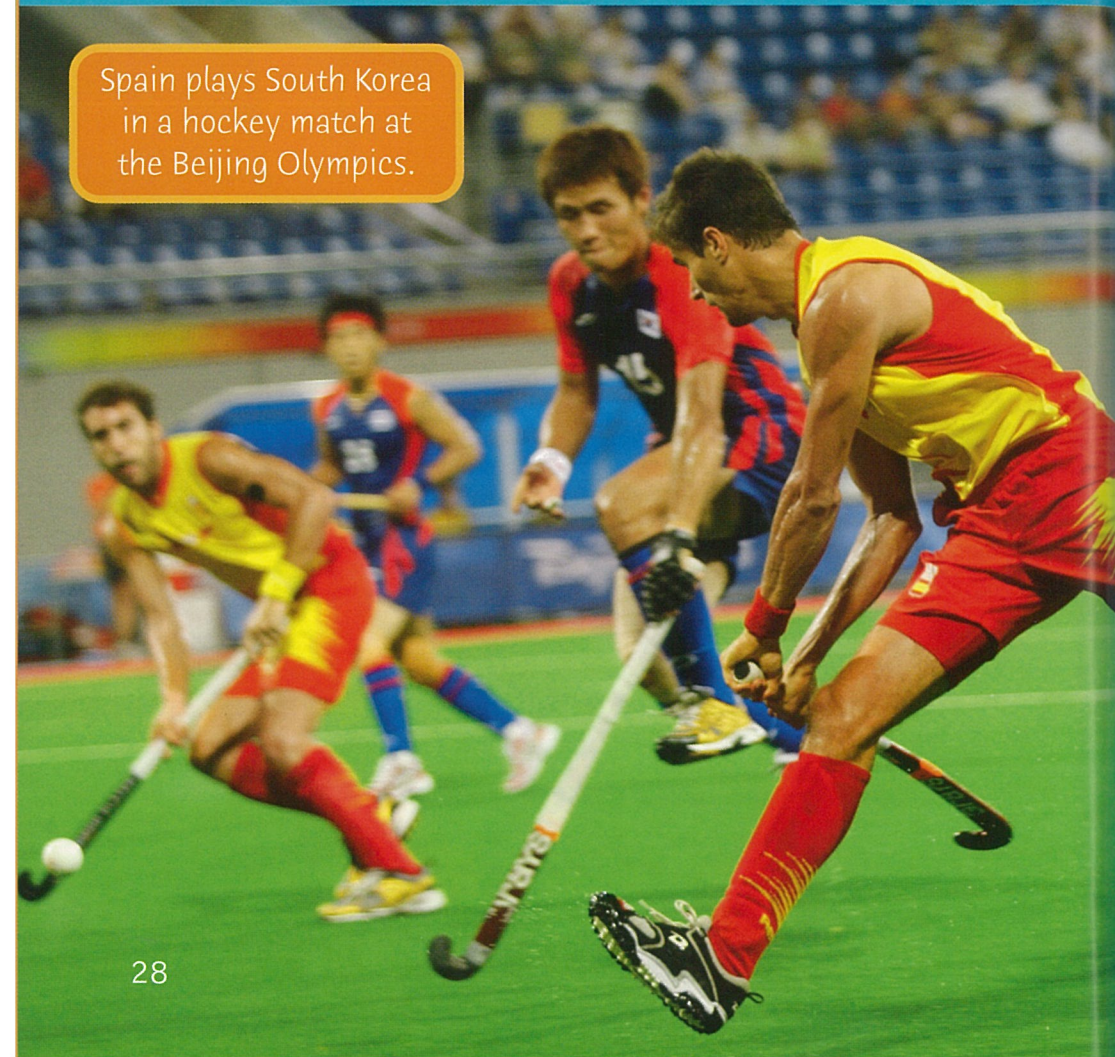
In 1988, the American diver Greg Louganis cracked his head on the springboard while attempting a dive. After receiving stitches, he went on to win two gold medals.



Ball sports

Football is one of the many ball sports in the Olympic Games, along with others such as basketball, hockey, tennis and table tennis. At the first modern Games in 1896, the football event was cancelled, because not enough people were interested in it! For the 2008 Games there were 16 men's teams and 12 women's.

Spain plays South Korea in a hockey match at the Beijing Olympics.



Argentina plays Lithuania in a basketball match at the Beijing Olympics.

Did you know?

In the 2004 football tournament, Iraq produced a shock result by beating Portugal, whose team included Cristiano Ronaldo!

