The Wimbledon Championships

Wimbledon is the world's oldest tennis tournament. It has been held at the All England Club in Wimbledon, London since 1877. It is one of the four Grand Slam tennis tournaments (majors), the others being the Australian Open, the French Open and the US Open.

Events

Wimbledon is made up of five main events and five junior events. There are also five invitation events where some former professionals are invited back to compete. The five main events are gentlemen's singles, ladies' singles, gentlemen's doubles, ladies' doubles and mixed doubles.

Schedule

Currently, Wimbledon begins in June and ends in July. In 2017, the championships will begin and end 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 rain has sometimes forced play on this day.

The Courts

In 2009, Wimbledon's Centre Court was fitted with a moving roof which can be automatically closed over the court to reduce the loss of playing time. The main show courts, Centre Court and No. 1 Court, are normally used for only two weeks a year during the championships, but play can go into a third week if there has been lots of rain. The other 17 courts are used for other events hosted by the club.

Trophies and Prize Money

The gentlemen's singles champion receives a silver gilt cup which has been awarded since 1887. The women's singles champion wins a sterling silver salver.

A Few Famous Champions

Serena Williams, and her sister Venus, have each won Wimbledon more than once. Roger Federer won the men's singles title five times in a row between 2003 and 2007. In 2012, Federer beat Andy Murray in the final but Murray came back the following year to win, making him the first British man in 77 years to take the title.

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Did You Know....?

- All Wimbledon tennis players are required to wear all-white or at least almost all-white clothing.
- 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.

Wimbledon

Make sure you answer questions in full sentences.

1. Where is Wimbledon held?

_____

2. Name one other Grand Slam tennis tournament.

_____

3. Why is Wimbledon starting later in 2017?

_____

4. What is special about 'Middle Sunday'?

_____

5. What is different about Centre Court?

_____

6. When must players bow or curtsy?

_____

7. What qualities do you think you need to become a Wimbledon champion?

_____

Wimbledon **Answers**

1. Where is Wimbledon held?
   Wimbledon is held at the All England Club in Wimbledon, London.
2. Name one other Grand Slam tennis tournament.
   Any one name from the following list: Australian Open, French Open, US Open.
3. Why is Wimbledon starting later in 2017?
   In 2017, the championships will begin and end in July, making the gap between the tournament and the French Open a bit longer.
4. What is special about 'Middle Sunday'
   There isn't usually any play on the 'Middle Sunday'.
5. What is different about Centre Court?
   Wimbledon's Centre Court was fitted with a moving roof which can be automatically closed over the court to reduce the loss of playing time.
6. When must players bow or curtsy?
   Players have to to bow or curtsy if HRH The Prince of Wales or Her Majesty the Queen is present in the Royal Box at Centre Court.
7. What qualities do you think you need to become a Wimbledon champion?
   Own answers.