**Discontinued Summer Olympic sports**

**Cricket:** A huge sport in Great Britain, India, Pakistan and many former British colonies, cricket has never taken off in the United States. It never took off as an Olympic sport, either. One event was held during the 1900 games, and then, nothing.

**Croquet:** The only Olympics croquet competition ever held was at the Paris games in 1900. France won all three events.

**Polo:** Water polo is currently an Olympic sport, but the sport with the horses is not. Polo was in the Olympics five times: in 1900, 1908, 1920, 1924, and 1936.

**Tug-of-war:** This is a good one. A favorite for backyard barbecues and summer camps, tug-of-war was actually an Olympic sport in six Olympic games from 1900 to 1920. Here, US first lady Michelle Obama takes part in a game of tug-of-war at an event at the US embassy in London before the games.

**Lacrosse:** Lacrosse is gaining popularity in the United States, but it hasn't been an Olympic sport since 1908, when only Canada and Great Britain competed. It was also a demonstration sport three times.

**Motor boating:** Also called power boating or water motor sports, it failed before it could ever really take off as an Olympic sport. There were three events in the 1908 games, but six of the nine scheduled races were canceled due to bad weather. It was also difficult for spectators to watch the races.

**Golf:** This is a familiar one, obviously, and it's a sport that will be returning in the 2016 games in Brazil. You have to go way back to the 1904 Olympics for the last time golf was played.

**Tandem cycling:** Many cycling events have been cycled out (sorry) of the Olympic games, including tandem cycling (not pictured). Tandem cycling was held for men in 1906, 1908, and 1920 through 1972. It was discontinued in 1973.u have to go way back to the 1904 Olympics for the last time golf was played.

**Dueling pistol:** It's not quite as bad as you think. Competitors weren't shooting AT each other, but rather at mannequins. There was a bull's eye on the dummy's throat. The event was held in 1906 and 1912.

**Underwater swimming:** Swimming is a major part of the Summer Olympics now, but previous incarnations featured events you might do in your own backyard. The event was held over 60 meters, and competitors were awarded points for each meter they swam underwater. There was also a plunge for distance event, where competitors had to remain motionless underwater for a minute.

**Rackets:** An early game like racquetball, "rackets" was played in the 1908 games. All three events were won by Great Britain.

**Pigeon-shooting:** Before environmental activism was popular, Olympians used to shoot live pigeons for sport. Plenty of people still hunt live animals now, but you can understand the mess and uproar caused by an official Olympic event doing the same. It was held only once, in 1900.

**Baseball:**Held during the last five Olympics and as a demonstration sport seven times, baseball ceased being an Olympic event in 2008.

**Softball:** Softball was held in the 1996, 2000, 2004, and 2008 Olympics, but it went the way of baseball and ceased being an Olympic sport.

**Rope climbing:** Held as part of the gymnastics program in 1896, 1904, 1906, 1924, and 1932, competitors climbed to the top of a vertical rope as fast as they could.