



Let's Study About...

The OLYMPIC GAMES



Introduction



The Olympic Games are an international sporting event that is held every four years. It brings together 10,000 athletes from 200 countries for 2 weeks of drama, excitement and sports. The Olympics were established to promote world peace and international friendship by replacing military competition with athletic competition.

There are four main types of Olympic event: the *Summer Olympics*, the *Winter Olympics*, the *Paralympics* (for athletes with physical disabilities) and the *Special Olympics* (for athletes with intellectual disabilities).

The 2016 Summer Olympics were held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The 2020 Olympics are being held in summer 2021 in Tokyo hosted by Japan.

QUESTIONS

1. What are the Olympic Games?
2. How often are they held?
3. How many athletes participate?
4. Why were the Olympics established?
5. What are the four main Olympic events?
6. Where were the 2012 Olympics held?
7. Which nation will host the 2020 Olympics?

Olympic Traditions

Olympic Symbol The Olympic symbol is five interlinked rings. These represent the 5 continents (Europe, Asia, Africa, America and Oceania).

Olympic Motto The official motto of the Olympic Games is *Citius, Altius, Fortius*. This means *swifter, higher, stronger* in Latin.

Olympic Creed "The most important thing is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle."

Olympic Torch The Olympic torch is lit in Olympia and is carried by a relay of runners from Greece to the host city. It is used to light the Olympic Flame at the opening ceremony, then is put out at the end of the closing ceremony.

QUESTIONS

1. What's the symbol of the Olympics?
2. What do the five rings represent?
3. Explain the Olympic motto.
4. What's the Olympic creed?
5. Who does the torch get to the host city?
6. What happens at the opening ceremony?
7. What happens at the closing ceremony?

The Ancient Greek Olympics



The Olympic Games began 3,500 years ago in ancient Greece. They were held as a religious event to honor the Greek god Zeus. The first recorded Olympics took place in the city of Olympia in the year 776 BC. These consisted of running races, but other events were added later. All participants competed naked, with no clothes. The ancient Olympics were stopped by a Roman Emperor in the year 393 AD.

QUESTIONS

1. When did the Olympic Games begin?
2. Where did they begin?
3. Why were they held?
4. Where did the first recorded event take place?
5. When did it take place?
6. What happened in the year 393 AD?

The Modern Olympics



After 393 AD, no games were held for over 1,500 years. The modern Olympics were revived in the 19th century by an idealistic Frenchman named Pierre de Coubertin. He had read about the ancient Greek Olympics and wanted to restart the games. He believed that the Olympics could contribute to world peace and international friendship. Thanks to him, the first modern Olympics were held in Athens, Greece in 1896.

QUESTIONS

1. What happened after 393 AD?
2. When were the Olympic Games revived?
3. Who restarted the Olympics?
4. What did he believe?
5. When were the first modern Olympics held?
6. Where were they held?