

## Which Country Won the Most Medals? Three Ways of Counting

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) does not record – or promote – the counting of which countries won how many medals. That’s something the media, national governments and the public in each country do. Given the big gap between rich nations and poor nations, a simple medal count doesn’t seem fair. After the 2004 Olympics in Athens, one NGO calculated national medal counts according to 3 criteria: the number of medals won, medals per capita and medals adjusted for GDP (Gross Domestic Product). The top 10 winners are listed below. Why not discuss this topic with your class or have your students do these calculations for Tokyo 2020?



### The 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece (The Top 10 Medal Winners)



#### WINNERS MEASURED BY NUMBER OF MEDALS



Gold + Silver + Bronze = Total

#### WINNERS MEASURED BY POPULATION PER MEDAL



Population - Medals per million

#### WINNERS MEASURED BY GDP PER CAPITA



Medals adjusted for national GDP

1 USA	103	6 Japan	37	1 Bahamas	10	6 Jamaica	1.9	1 Cuba	1.1	6 Belarus	4.1
2 Russia	92	7 France	33	2 Australia	2.5	7 Latvia	1.7	2 Jamaica	2	7 N. Korea	4.5
3 China	63	8 Italy	32	3 Cuba	2.4	8 Hungary	1.7	3 Bahamas	2.6	8 Kenya	4.7
4 Australia	49	9 S. Korea	30	4 Estonia	2.3	9 Bulgaria	1.6	4 Georgia	3	9 Bulgaria	4.8
5 Germany	48	10 UK	30	5 Slovenia	2	10 Greece	1.5	5 Eritrea	3.3	10 Mongolia	4.8