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THE OLYMPIC GAMES

Have you ever wished you were the “best in the world” at a sport or activity? What if you had the chance to prove that your hard work and practice *did* make you the best? The Olympic Games brings together the greatest collection of athletes from all around the world to compete for the ultimate gold medal. More than 1 billion people throughout the world watch the Olympics on television, and winners often become national heroes. In addition to the athletic events, the Olympics offer colorful ceremonies and parades that inspire athletes and fans around the world.



Let's learn some basic history about the Olympic Games!

First, go **to www.worldbookonline.com**

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FIND IT!

Use the World Book search tool to find the answers to the questions below. Since this activity is about the Olympics, it is recommended you start by searching the key words “Olympic Games.”

Write the answer below each question or on the line provided.

1. How often are the Olympic Winter Games held?
2. In the opening ceremonies, the team of what country has the honor of marching first into the Olympic stadium? Why do they get this honor?
3. What does the Olympic flame stand for?
4. The Olympic symbol consists of _____ rings and stand for_____.
5. The five official Olympic colors are black, blue, green, yellow, and _____.
6. The Summer Olympics lasts _____ days.



7. Athletes in the Summer Olympics compete in: (circle one)
 - (1) About 130 events.
 - (2) About 190 events.
 - (3) About 270 events.
 - (4) About 300 events.
8. True or false? More than 10,000 athletes take part in the Summer Games.
9. About _____ countries compete in the Winter Olympics.
10. True or false? The only event in the first 13 games of the ancient Olympic Games was the broad jump.
11. The first recorded Olympic contest took place in what year?
12. The first modern Olympic Games were held in what year?
13. Jim Thorpe was the first athlete to win what events in a Summer Olympics?
14. The first separate Winter Games was held in what city?
15. Name the woman who won the figure skating event in the Winter Games, then went on to star in Hollywood musicals.
16. Who was the first American woman sprinter to win three gold medals at track and field events at the Summer Games? (Hint: The answer can be found in the caption of this athlete's picture within the Olympic Games article.)
17. Babe Didrikson competed for what country in the 1932 Olympics?
18. What event did Muhammad Ali win at the 1960 Summer Olympics?
19. Who was the first gymnast to receive a perfect score of 10 in the Olympic Games?



WATCH IT!

Within the World Book article Olympic Games, you will find the video “Jesse Owns at the 1936 Summer Olympic Games.” Watch the video and answer the following questions.

20. According to the video, what did Hitler attempt to do at the 1936 Olympics?

21. Explain how Jesse Owen’s success embarrassed Hitler at the 1936 Olympics.

GO BACK IN TIME!

The Back in Time feature (found in the article “Related Information” tab) offers historic articles from past World Book Year Books. These articles remain untouched from the year they were written, offering a firsthand account of the experiences and perceptions reflective of the day. Go to the Back in Time feature in the Olympic Games article. Choose one article from any year and fill in the questions below.

22. Year the article was written:

23. What topics seem to be of most importance during the year your chosen article was written? Explain what topics are included in the article and what that tells you about the priorities of the Olympics at that time.



MATCH IT!

Match the names and dates in Column A with the questions in Column B.

COLUMN A

- _____ 1. Birgit Fischer-Schmidt
- _____ 2. 776 B.C.
- _____ 3. Jim Thorpe
- _____ 4. Baron Pierre de Coubertin
- _____ 5. Zeus
- _____ 6. Johnny Weissmuller
- _____ 7. Boxing
- _____ 8. Eric Heiden
- _____ 9. International Olympic Committee
- _____ 10. Paavo Nurmi
- _____ 11. A.D. 393
- _____ 12. Usain Bolt
- _____ 13. Sonja Henie
- _____ 14. Jean-Paul Killy
- _____ 15. Babe Didrikson
- _____ 16. 1896
- _____ 17. Jesse Owens and Carl Lewis
- _____ 18. Barbara Ann Scott
- _____ 19. 1924
- _____ 20. Emil Zatopek
- _____ 21. Jimmy Carter
- _____ 22. Bonnie Blair

COLUMN B

- A. This organization selects the host cities for the Summer and Winter Olympics.
- B. Professional athletes can compete in all Olympic sports, except this one.
- C. The ancient Olympic Games were dedicated to this god.
- D. This American athlete was the hero of the 1912 Olympics.
- E. This Finnish runner won nine gold medals in three Olympics during the 1920's.
- F. The first Olympic Games were held in this year.
- G. This American swimmer competed in the 1924 Olympics and became a popular movie actor.
- H. This Norwegian figure skater won gold medals in 1928, 1932, and 1936 and then starred in several Hollywood movie musicals.
- I. This woman is considered the first American female Olympic star.
- J. These two American sprinters each won four gold medals in a single Summer Games.
- K. This American president led an international boycott of the Summer Games in Moscow.
- L. The year the first modern Olympics were held.
- M. This woman was the first Canadian figure skater to win an Olympic gold medal.
- N. The first man to win the 5,000-meter, 10,000-meter, and marathon races in the same Olympics.
- O. The year the first Winter Olympic Games were held.
- P. A French skier won three Olympic gold medals during the 1960's and became an international celebrity.
- Q. This American speed skater won all five races in the 1980 Winter Olympics.
- R. This speed skater was the first American woman to win gold medals in three consecutive Winter Games.
- S. The first athlete in any sport to win two gold medals in each of five Olympics.
- T. The Jamaican sprinter who set three world records at the 2008 Summer Games.
- U. The Frenchman who organized the first modern Olympics.
- V. The Romans banned the original Olympic Games in this year.

TEACHER PAGE

1. Every four years
2. Greece. To honor Greece as the birthplace of the Olympics.
3. It stands for the light of spirit, knowledge, and life and it is also a messenger of peace.
4. Five; Africa, Australia, Asia, Europe, the Americas (continents)
5. Red
6. 17 days
7. (4) more than 300 events
8. True
9. About 60
10. False. The first event was running.
11. 776 B.C.
12. 1896
13. Pentathlon and decathlon
14. Chamonix, France
15. Sonja Henie
16. Wilma Rudolph
17. United States
18. Light heavyweight championship
19. Nadia Comaneci
20. Hitler attempted to use the Olympics as Nazi propaganda to promote the supremacy of the Aryan race.
21. Jesse Owen was an African American athlete who won four gold medals in track and field disproving Hitler's attempts at creating propaganda to "prove" the superiority of the Aryan race. Even the German people treated Owen as a favorite.
22. Answers will vary.
23. Answers will vary.

MATCH IT! ANSWERS;

- | | | | |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. S | 7. B | 13. H | 19. O |
| 2. F | 8. Q | 14. P | 20. N |
| 3. D | 9. A | 15. I | 21. K |
| 4. U | 10. E | 16. L | 22. R |
| 5. C | 11. V | 17. J | |
| 6. G | 12. T | 18. M | |