

1

Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. When and where were the first Olympic Games held? _____
2. Who organized the first Olympic Games of the modern age? What were his reasons? _____

3. What happens at the opening ceremony? _____

4. What do the Olympic rings represent? _____
5. What happens at the medal ceremony? _____

6. What does the International Olympic Committee do? _____

7. Who decides which athletes can take part? _____

8. Name a few events of the ancient Olympic Games? _____

9. Why were the 2020 Tokyo Olympics postponed? _____
10. When and where were the first Winter Olympics held? _____
11. How did Adolf Hitler use the 1936 Berlin games? _____
12. Who became the greatest athlete of the 1936 Olympics? _____
13. What happened in 1968 when the American national anthem was played? _____

14. What happened during the 1972 Munich games? _____

15. What happens when athletes take unallowed drugs? _____

16. Which city hosted the Olympic Games three times? _____
17. Which city hosted the summer and winter games? _____
18. What was the so called "Dream Team"? _____

19. Which two swimmers have become the most successful athletes in the Olympics? _____

20. What is a decathlon? _____

2

Multiple Choice Task

Choose the correct answer for each question

- The 1936 Summer Olympics were disturbed because
 - they were organized in the middle of a war.
 - Hitler tried to show the world how powerful the Nazis were.
 - Israeli athletes were killed.
 - Black American athletes showed their fists in protest.
- If an athlete takes drugs
 - they are banned from competitions for their whole life.
 - they cannot compete in the next two events.
 - they move one rank down in the results.
 - they are disqualified and the medals are taken away from them.
- The ancient Olympic Games were held
 - in honour of Zeus, a Greek god.
 - for men and women.
 - only for footraces.
 - as a competition against the Romans.
- Cities that host the Olympic Games
 - must have an underground system.
 - must be very large.
 - must have enough stadiums for all the events.
 - must provide cheap tickets for spectators.
- Pierre de Coubertin wanted to
 - organize an event that millions could watch.
 - organize summer and winter games at the same time.
 - use sports to stop wars.
 - bring peace and friendship to the people of the world.
- Equestrian events are about
 - gymnastics.
 - horse riding.
 - swimming.
 - weightlifting.
- The only city to host the Olympic Summer games three times is
 - London.
 - Berlin.
 - Paris.
 - Athens.
- Abebe Bikila's victory in the marathon was so special because
 - he was the first athlete to run the marathon under 2:30 hours.
 - he was the first black athlete at the Olympic Games.
 - he won the race twice in a row.
 - he ran barefoot.

THE OLYMPIC GAMES – EXERCISES

3

Match the words on the left with the definitions on the right.

A	steroids			sports competition made up of ten different events
B	decathlon			an important event in which things are performed or done in a special way
C	dash			hot bright gas that you see when something is on fire
D	broadcast			a promise
E	spectator			the official song of a country that is played at events
F	flame			chemicals that athletes take to make muscles grow faster
G	citizen			to take part against others in a sports event
H	chariot			to show the events to an audience on TV
I	relay			running and jumping events
J	oath			old wagon pulled by two horses
K	athlete			the way you feel about something
L	ceremony			the number of points in a competition
M	compete			someone who legally belongs to a country and has rights there
N	track and field			sportsman or sportswoman
O	spirit			a very quick and short race
P	postpone			athletes compete in a team - one after the other
Q	national anthem			to change the time of the event to a later one
R	score			someone who sits in a stadium and watches an event

THE OLYMPIC GAMES – EXERCISES

4

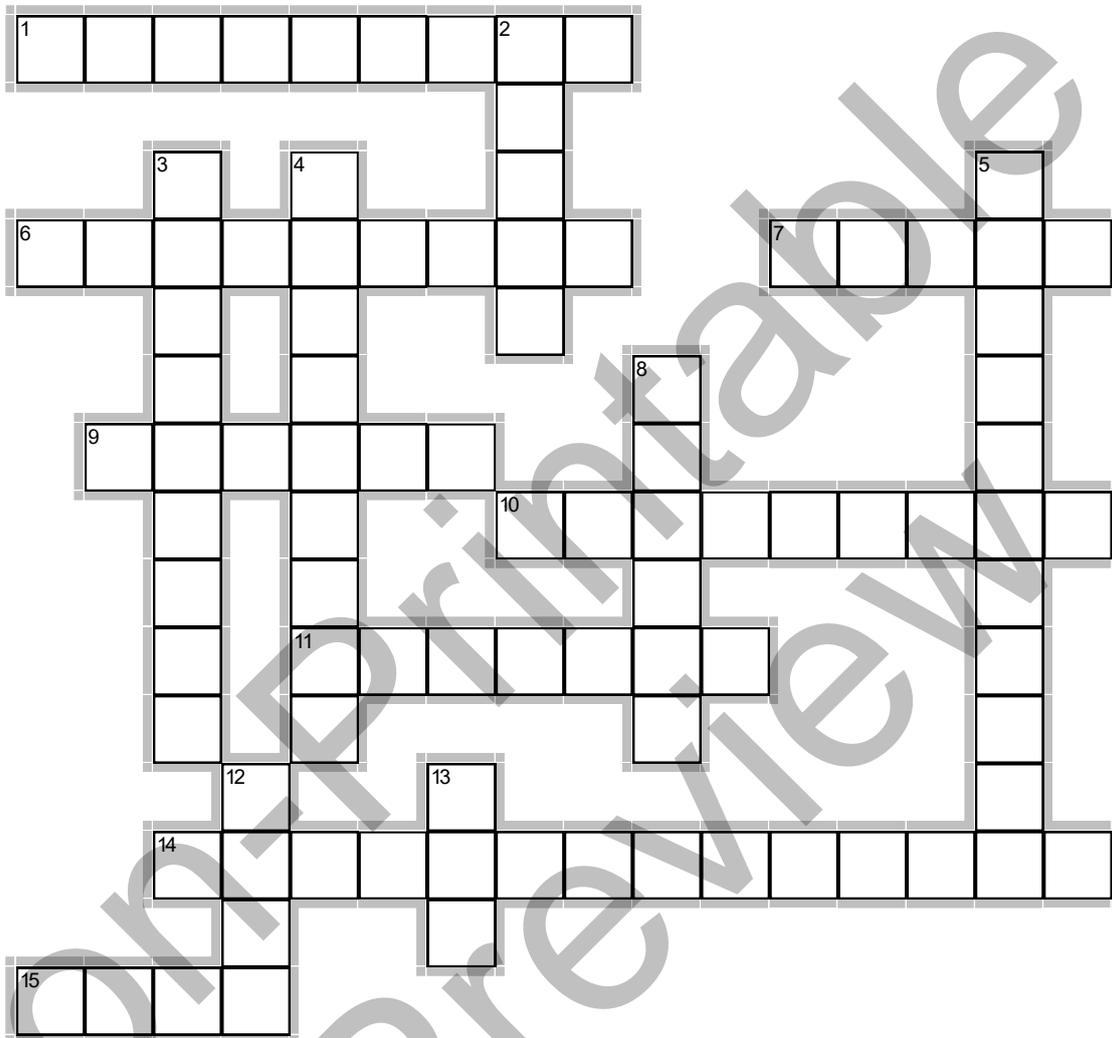
Match the beginnings of the sentences with the sentence endings.
There are TWO endings you will not need.

A	In 1912 the IOC took away Jim Thorpe's medals		protested against the American government.
B	Ben Johnson was disqualified		took Israeli athletes as hostage.
C	All athletes must promise		lasted until the 4 th century A.D.
D	Athletes must qualify for Olympic Games		that the Germans were better than all the rest.
E	In 1936 Adolf Hitler wanted to show the world		because he had played baseball before the Olympics.
F	In 1968 African American runners		and the national anthem of the winner is played.
G	The ancient Olympic Games		be getting good results in national or international events.
H	The first games of the modern age		in a relay event.
I	In the last hundred years, the games		because he had taken drugs
J	The Olympic torch reaches the host city		decides which sports and events are held at the games.
K	The first three athletes of an event get medals		have often been disrupted by politics.
L	The International Olympic Committee		because he ran for two countries at the same time
			were organized by a Frenchman
			to give their best and compete fairly

5

Look for 15 words about the Olympic Games (→ ← ↗ ↘ ↓) and mark them.

P G E P C K O M Z D J O H
 C O M P E T I T I O N M K
 A P X I I N F C H I F A U
 F D E C A T H L O N L R J
 T M A T Y T G P S J A A K
 A I T J D H O S T C M T P
 U R H F O O T R A C E H K
 X Y L D N H M M G N K O D
 U B E N Y C E R E M O N Y
 K J T S R C T I I D B K C
 W R E S T L I N G O A T H
 Y Y D O P I N G A A C L G
 O E F X K K X S X G G F E



Across

1. person who watches an event
6. sport in which two athletes fight by holding each other and forcing them to the ground
7. when athletes run or swim in a team, one after the other
9. city to host the first modern Olympic Games
10. city that has hosted the Olympic Winter Games twice
11. wagon pulled by two horses
14. official song of a country (2 words)
15. promise that each athlete has to make

Down

2. African American who won four gold medals in the 1936 Berlin Olympics (last name)
3. competition with ten different events
4. sport that has many running and jumping events
5. to take part
8. only city that hosted the Olympic Games three times
12. very quick and short race
13. organization that organizes the Olympic Games (short word)

7

Complete the text with the words from the box.

Olympic Games take place every four years. Thousands of (1) _____ from all over the world get together to (2) _____ in many different events. The games were first held in (3) _____ Greece in honour of Zeus. The modern games began in 1896 when Frenchman Pierre de Coubertin had the idea of spreading peace and (4) _____ through sports.

Today, Olympic Games are held every four years. Winter and summer games are (5) _____ two years apart from each other. In the opening (6) _____ athletes from the nations that take part in the Olympics march into the (7) _____. The Olympic (8) _____, a symbol of spirit and life, is brought into the stadium by (9) _____ who have brought it from the town of Olympia in Greece. It burns until the games are over about two weeks later.

A chosen athlete takes an (10) _____ and promises that all participants will give their best and compete fairly.

Athletes must qualify before they take part in the Olympic Games. They are chosen by the country in which they are (11) _____. For many years only amateurs were able to compete in the Olympics but today most athletes are professionals who (12) _____ their money through sport.

In the history of the modern games (13) _____ have often played a major role. Adolf Hitler abused the 1936 Berlin games to (14) _____ how powerful Nazi Germany was. In the Munich Olympics of 1972 Arab terrorists took Israeli athletes as (15) _____. They died when German police forces tried to free them.

The USA and many western countries (16) _____ the 1980 Olympics in Moscow because the Soviet Union had (17) _____ Afghanistan a year earlier. Four years later, Communist countries stayed away from the games in Los Angeles.

ancient
athletes
boycotted
ceremony
citizens
compete
demonstrate
earn
flame
friendship
hostages
hosted
invaded
oath
politics
runners
stadium

8

Complete the sentences with words from the box. There are TWO words you will not need.

Michael Phelps, the most successful swimmer of all times, ended his career after his last **(1)** _____ at the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. He won a total of 28 Olympic medals, 23 of them in gold. In the 2008 Beijing games he broke Mark Spitz's **(2)** _____ record, winning 8 gold medals at a single Olympics. In the 2016 Olympic Games, Phelps won 5 gold **(3)** _____ and one in silver. His last competition was the butterfly leg in the 4X100 m men's **(4)** _____.

After the event Michael Phelps, at the age of 31, declared the end of his so **(5)** _____ career. The American swimmer came back from **(6)** _____ after the 2012 Olympics in London. In Rio, he was chosen to lead America's Olympic team into the stadium and carry the **(7)** _____.

Born in Baltimore, Michael was the youngest of three children. He began swimming at the age of 7. By the time he reached 10 he had already held a national **(8)** _____ for swimmers of his age in the 100-meter butterfly event. In 2000 he became the youngest male to join the US Olympic swimming team in 68 years. At his first games in Sydney, Phelps finished fifth in the 200m butterfly event. In the following years Phelps **(9)** _____ the swimming world. He competed in 6 single events, including butterfly, freestyle and backstroke as well as the medley races. Phelps not only became the world's best swimmer, but also **(10)** _____ other Americans. At the Rio games, the United States was the world's most successful swimming **(11)** _____.

Now, Michael Phelps wants to spend more time working with his foundation, which he created after the Beijing Olympics to make swimming more **(12)** _____ among young people. He also wants more time with his family.



Michael Phelps

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appearance
dominated
flag
inspired
lead
legendary
medals
nation
popular
record
relay
retirement
single
successful

9

European Host Cities – Complete the table by putting in the correct host cities from the list.



Image: [Standard map of Europe \(blank\).png](#) by [Ssolbergj](#), [CC BY-SA 3.0](#) via Wikimedia Commons modified (numbers and circles added) by Klaus Rosmanitz

Amsterdam - Athens - Barcelona - Berlin - Grenoble - Helsinki - Innsbruck - Lillehammer - London - Moscow - Munich - Sarajevo

1	
2	
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12	

10

North American Host Cities – Complete the table by putting in the correct host cities from the list.



Image: [Uwe Dederig, CC BY-SA 3.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons modified (numbers and circles added) by Klaus Rosmanitz

Atlanta - Calgary - Lake Placid - Los Angeles - Montreal - Salt Lake City - St. Louis - Vancouver

1	
2	
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8	

Sports Today, a well-known magazine especially made for the younger generation, wants to know what young people think about the Olympic Games and has decided to organize an essay competition. The winner will be awarded a two-week trip to the next Olympic Summer Games.

You have decided to take part and send in an essay.

In your **essay** you should

- describe how important the Olympic Games as a global event are
- explain what the advantages and disadvantages of holding such mega events are
- give reasons why or why not the games are good for the host country or host city

Write an essay of **300 – 400 words**. !

Non-Printable
Preview