

1

Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. When and where were the first Olympic Games held ? **in Olympia, Greece om 776 B.C.**
2. Who organized the first Olympic Games of the modern age? What were his reasons? **the Frenchman Pierre de Coubertin ; he wanted to bring peace and friendship to young people in the world**
3. What happens at the opening ceremony? **nations march into the stadium; the Olympic flag is raised; an athlete lights the torch and takes an oath**
4. What do the Olympic rings represent? **the five continents**
5. What happens at the medal ceremony? **medals are given to the first three athletes; flags are raised and the national anthem of the winner's country is played**
6. What does the International Olympic Committee do? **it governs the games; decides which sports and events are held; chooses the host city**
7. Who decides which athletes can take part? **each country decides for itself; athletes must qualify in national competitions**
8. Name a few events of the ancient Olympic Games? **footraces, wrestling, chariot races, pentathlon**
9. Why were the 2020 Tokyo Olympics postponed? **because of the corona virus pandemic**
10. When and where were the first Winter Olympics held? **1924 in Chamonix, France**
11. How did Adolf Hitler use the 1936 Berlin games? **to show Nazi Germany's power**
12. Who became the greatest athlete of the 1936 Olympics? **Jesse Owens**
13. What happened in 1968 when the American national anthem was played? **two Black American athletes raised their fists in protest**
14. What happened during the 1972 Munich games? **Palestinian terrorists attacked the Olympic village and killed Israeli athletes**
15. What happens when athletes take unallowed drugs? **they are disqualified and their medals are taken away**
16. Which city hosted the Olympic Games three times? **London**
17. Which city hosted the summer and winter games? **Beijing**
18. What was the so called "Dream Team"? **in 1992 the American professional basketball team was allowed to compete for the first time**
19. Which two swimmers have become the most successful athletes in the Olympics? **Mark Spitz and Michael Phelps**
20. What is a decathlon? **a series of ten different track and field events**

2

Multiple Choice Task

Choose the correct answer for each question

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

THE OLYMPIC GAMES – KEY

3

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

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

THE OLYMPIC GAMES – KEY

4

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

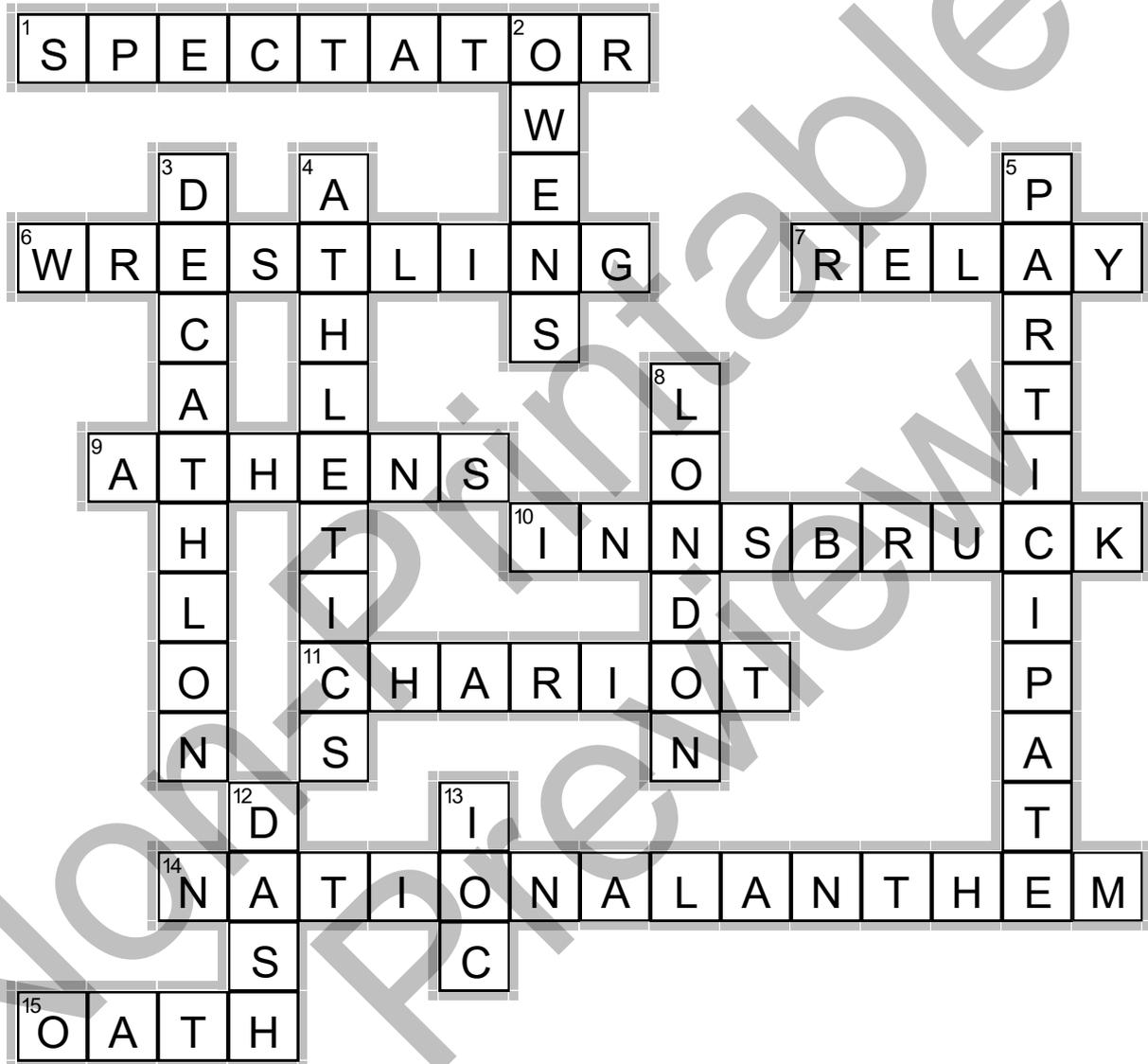
A	In 1912 the IOC took away Jim Thorpe's medals	F	protested against the American government.
B	Ben Johnson was disqualified		took Israeli athletes as hostage.
C	All athletes must promise	G	lasted until the 4 th century A.D.
D	Athletes must qualify for Olympic Games	E	that the Germans were better than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

THE OLYMPIC GAMES – KEY

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



7

Complete the text with the words from the box.

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

Today, Olympic Games are held every four years. Winter and summer games are (5) **hosted** two years apart from each other. In the opening (6) **ceremony** athletes from the nations that take part in the Olympics march into the (7) **stadium**. The Olympic (8) **flame**, a symbol of spirit and life, is brought into the stadium by (9) **runners** 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) **oath** 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) **citizens**. For many years only amateurs were able to compete in the Olympics but today most athletes are professionals who (12) **earn** their money through sport.

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

The USA and many western countries (16) **boycotted** the 1980 Olympics in Moscow because the Soviet Union had (17) **invaded** 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) appearance** 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) legendary** record, winning 8 gold medals at a single Olympics. In the 2016 Olympic Games, Phelps won 5 gold **(3) medals** and one in silver. His last competition was the butterfly leg in the 4X100 m men's **(4) relay**.

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

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) record** 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) dominated** 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) inspired** other Americans. At the Rio games, the United States was the world's most successful swimming **(11) nation**.

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



Michael Phelps

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

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	Barcelona
2	London
3	Munich
4	Amsterdam
5	Innsbruck
6	Sarajevo
7	Berlin
8	Helsinki
9	Moscow
10	Athens
11	Grenoble
12	Lillehammer

10

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



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

1	Lake Placid
2	St. Louis
3	Los Angeles
4	Vancouver
5	Montreal
6	Calgary
7	Atlanta
8	Salt Lake City