

The Olympic Games®

1 Pre-reading

Do this quiz about the Olympic Games®. Then check your answers by doing an Internet search for The Olympic Games®. You can use these websites to help you:

www.athensguide.org/olympics-history.html

gtresearchnews.gatech.edu/reshor/rh-win96/timeline.htm

www.enchantedlearning.com/olympics/

- 1 The five rings of the Olympic Games® represent five
 a continents
 b days of competition
 c sports
- 2 The first Olympic Games® took place in Olympia, Greece, in
 a 776 B.C.
 b A.D. 79
 c A.D. 1896
- 3 The only event in the first Olympic Games® was
 a fighting
 b swimming
 c running
- 4 During the Olympic Games® in ancient Greece, competitors won
 a a crown made of olive leaves
 b gold, silver, and bronze medals
 c money
- 5 The "sacred truce" allowed competitors to
 a give thanks to the gods
 b prepare for the games
 c travel to the games safely
- 6 The Olympic® torch travels
 a around the world
 b from Greece
 c from the last host country
- 7 The Olympic Games® take place every
 a two years
 b three years
 c four years
- 8 The number of sports included in the Olympic Games® today is around
 a twenty-six
 b seventy
 c two hundred

2 Vocabulary

Match the words with the pictures of different Olympic® sports. Then check your answers online. You can use this website to help you:

www.london2012.com/sport

- a athletics
- b baseball
- c gymnastics
- d road cycling
- e swimming
- f taekwondo
- g tennis



3 Reading

Do an Internet search for *The Olympics®* and find out when these important Olympic Games® events happened. You can use these websites to help you:

www.nostos.com/olympics/#HighlightsoftheModernGames

www.sports-reference.com/olympics/athletes/bl/fanny-blankers-koen-1.html

www.london2012.com/cycling-bmx

www.infoplease.com/spot/olympicstimeline.html

www.athensmarathon.com/marathon/history.html

www.olympic.org/sydney-2000-summer-olympics

- 1 Baseball became an Olympic® sport. 1992
- 2 Road cycling was introduced. _____
- 3 A Dutch woman, Fanny Blankers-Koen, became the first woman to win four gold medals. _____
- 4 A Romanian, Nadia Comaneci, became the first person to score a perfect 10 in Olympic® gymnastics. _____
- 5 Softball, a women-only sport, was introduced. _____
- 6 Tennis returned as an Olympic® sport. _____
- 7 The first modern Olympics® took place in Athens. _____
- 8 The distance of a marathon became longer. _____
- 9 The Olympic Games® became open to women. _____
- 10 Taekwondo was entered as an Olympic® sport. _____

4 Project

Choose one of the Olympic® events in Exercise 2, or another you are particularly interested in. Do an Internet search to research the sport and prepare a fact file about it to present to the class. Use the following questions to help you:

- How long has it been an Olympic® sport?
- Has the sport changed in any way during that time? (e.g. becoming longer, shorter, admitting women, the introduction of new rules, etc.)
- Have there been any famous Olympics® for this event? (because of the absence/presence of certain athletes, disqualification of athletes, etc.)
- Which country has won the most medals in this event?
- Which competitors have won the most medals in this event?
- What other information do you think is interesting or important about this event?



You can use these websites to help you:

www.olympic.org

www.london2012.com/sport