

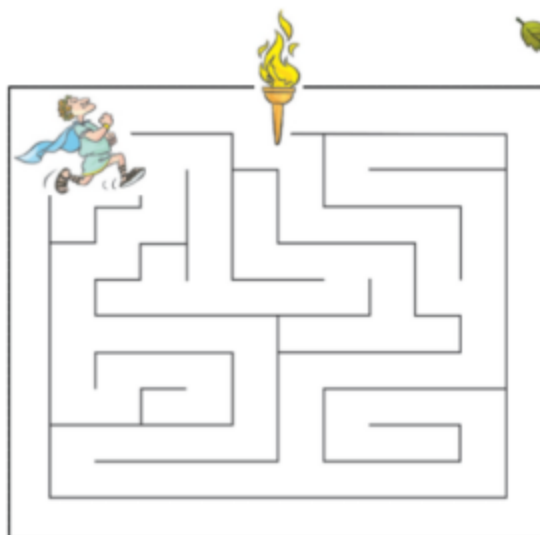


# The Olympic Games



Can you help this athlete trace his path to the Olympic flame?

Where is this flame lit every four years? Where did the Olympic Games originate? Let us read this chapter to learn some interesting facts about the Summer Olympics.



The Olympic Games got their name from Olympia, a place in Greece, where they were first held. The games began as a religious festival. The ancient Greeks dedicated the Olympic Games to the god Zeus.

The Greeks held the first Olympic Games over 2,700 years ago, in the year 776 BC, and had only one event, a sprint (a short run that was called the *stade*).

The race was run by men. A wreath<sup>1</sup> of olive branches was placed on the winner's head. Olive trees were sacred to the Greeks.



How were winners rewarded in the early Olympics?

The four-year period between two Olympic Games is called an Olympiad. Every four years, for 1,170 years, the Greeks held an Olympics, which continued to grow and change.

Many more sports were added, including other races, wrestling, boxing, pentathlon<sup>2</sup>, and equestrian events (events with horses and people, like chariot races and



<sup>1</sup>wreath: a circle of flowers and leaves




<sup>2</sup>pentathlon: five events, including the long jump, javelin throw, discus throw, foot race and wrestling

horse races). Then the Byzantine Emperor Theodosius came to the throne.

He was a very stern<sup>3</sup> ruler. He thought that the Olympic Games distracted<sup>4</sup> people from paying attention to religion, and so he banned the games in the year 394 AD.

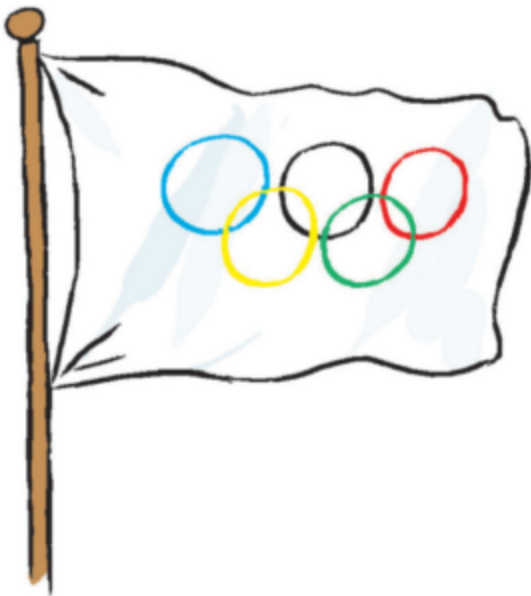
Pierre de Frédy, Baron de Coubertin, a French aristocrat<sup>5</sup>, educator and sportsman, revived<sup>6</sup> the Olympic Games in 1896. In that year the games were held in Athens, Greece. Baron de Coubertin became the founder of the International Olympic Committee and designed the flag of the Olympics.



Which word means *prevented something from happening*?

The Olympic flag has five interlocking<sup>7</sup> rings on a white background. The blue, yellow, black, green and red rings represent the five parts of the world that were joined together in the Olympic movement: Africa, the Americas, Asia, Australia and Europe.

The Olympic flag was first used in the 1920 Olympic Games in Antwerp, Belgium. The Olympic flag is paraded<sup>8</sup> during the opening ceremony of each Olympic Games. At the end of an Olympics, the mayor of the host city presents the flag to the mayor of the next host city. The flag remains in the town hall of the next host city until the next Olympic Games, four years later.



The tradition<sup>9</sup> of the Olympic flame began during the ancient Olympic Games. A flame was lit for each Olympics, every four years, and it burned throughout the games. There was no torch relay<sup>10</sup> in the ancient Olympics. The first torch relay took place at the 1936 Games in Berlin, Germany.

For each Olympics, a new flame is started in the ancient Olympic stadium in Olympia, Greece, using a mirror to focus the rays of the sun. This flame begins its Olympic Torch Relay by touring Greece.

<sup>3</sup>**stern**: serious and strict    <sup>4</sup>**distracted**: unable to pay attention    <sup>5</sup>**aristocrat**: a rich and stylish person who belongs to the upper class    <sup>6</sup>**revived**: started doing something again    <sup>7</sup>**interlocking**: connecting together    <sup>8</sup>**paraded**: displayed (something) very obviously    <sup>9</sup>**tradition**: a belief, custom or way of doing something that has existed for a long time among a particular group of people    <sup>10</sup>**torch relay**: an event during which a ceremonial torch is carried on a designated route by a succession of torchbearers

The flame is taken (usually by aeroplane) to the country where the games will be held. Then a few chosen citizens<sup>11</sup> carry the flame across the country. It is an honour to carry the torch. It is carried by people running, walking, riding or even scuba diving! The last runner uses the torch he carries to light the large Olympic flame at the stadium. This flame burns throughout the games. It is extinguished<sup>12</sup> during the closing ceremony.

A new Olympic torch is designed for each of the games. The Olympic motto is 'Citius, Altius, Fortius', which means 'Swifter, Higher, Stronger'. It describes the goals of great athletes and sportspersons all over the world.

There are two other Olympic Games—the Winter Olympic Games and the Paralympics. The Winter Olympic Games are a winter sport event held every four years. They feature winter sports held on snow or ice, such as skiing, figure skating<sup>13</sup>, bobsleighting<sup>14</sup> and ice hockey. The Paralympic Games are a multi-sport event held for athletes with physical and visual challenges.

The picture shows the logo<sup>15</sup> designed for the 2016 Games in Brazil. The logo has three figures, in the yellow, green, and blue of the Brazilian flag, joined at the arms and in a triple embrace. The shape represents the Sugarloaf Mountain<sup>16</sup> of Brazil.

The Olympic Games are a special competition. They celebrate the spirit of sportsmanship and spread the message of unity and peace.



Why do you think the Olympic flame is carried around in the host country?

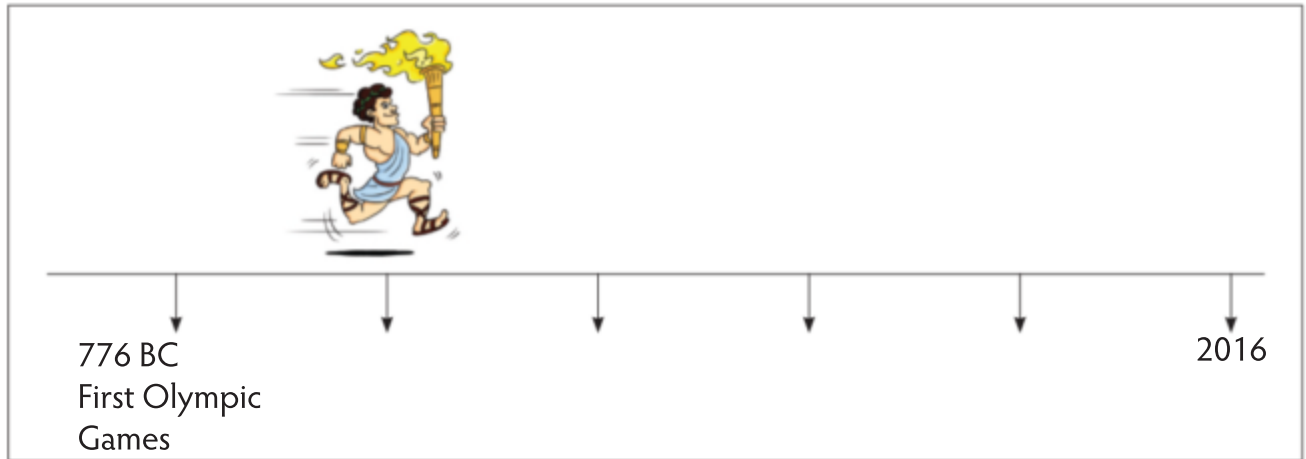


<sup>11</sup>**citizens:** people who have the legal right to belong to a country    <sup>12</sup>**extinguished:** to make a fire stop burning    <sup>13</sup>**figure skating:** a type of ice skating in which you cut patterns in the ice and do jumps and spins  
<sup>14</sup>**bobsleighting:** a sport where one can slide down on an ice-covered inclined surface    <sup>15</sup>**logo:** a printed design or symbol that a company or an organization uses as its special sign    <sup>16</sup>**Sugarloaf Mountain:** a peak situated in Rio de Janeiro

# Making connections

## Quick answers

1. Draw up a timeline to show the important milestones of the Olympic Games.



2. Choose the correct answer.

- a. The ancient Olympic Games were held to honour the god
  - i. Olympia.
  - ii. Athens.
  - iii. Zeus.
- b. The winners of the *stade* were given
  - i. a flag with rings.
  - ii. a wreath of olive branches.
  - iii. a bronze medal.
- c. If you take part in a pentathlon, you compete in
  - i. three events.
  - ii. four events.
  - iii. five events.
- d. Chariot racing was part of the
  - i. pentathlon.
  - ii. equestrian events.
  - iii. *stade*.
- e. For every Olympic Games, the torch relay begins at
  - i. Olympia.
  - ii. London.
  - iii. Antwerp.

## Reference to context

4. *The tradition of the Olympic flame began during the ancient Olympic Games.*
- a. How is the Olympic flame lit?
  - b. Which word in the passage means *a custom that has been going on for many years, one that we still carry on?*
  - c. Where is the flame taken once it has been lit? How long does it burn?
5. *The logo has three figures, in the yellow, green, and blue of the Brazilian flag, joined at the arms and in a triple embrace. The shape represents the Sugarloaf Mountain of Brazil.*

- Which is the logo that is being referred to in the extract?
- How often is an Olympic logo changed?
- What do we call the period between two Olympics?

## Read, reflect and write

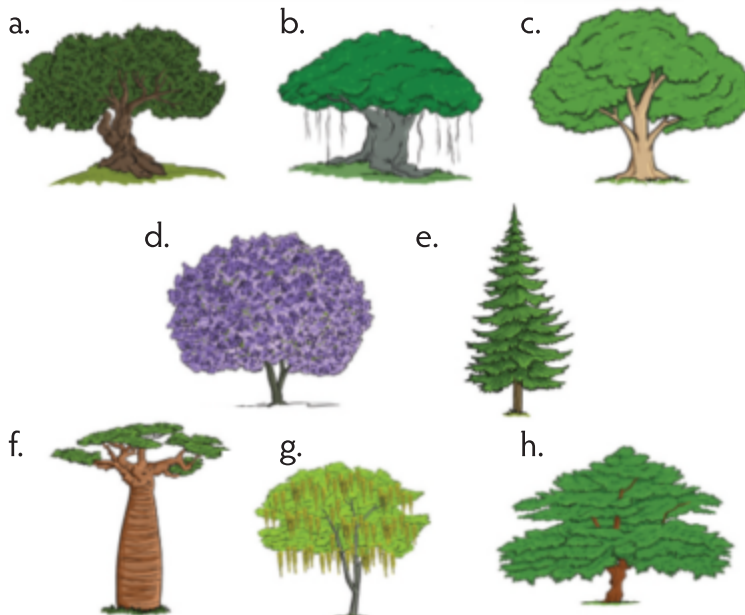
- What is the motto of the Olympic Games? Do you think it is a suitable motto?  
Give a reason for your answer.
- How does the Olympic flag stand for the message of unity and peace?
- Name the three types of Olympic Games mentioned in the chapter. Why is there a need for three different Olympics?
- Why do you think the Olympics are a special competition?

## Word wall

### Tree word search

- Olive trees were sacred to the Greeks. Hidden in the word search puzzle are names of other sacred trees. Look closely and find them. Match the names of the trees to their pictures.

olive ✦ banyan ✦ oak  
pine ✦ jacaranda ✦ baobab  
laburnum ✦ mulberry





## Games

2. Here are a few symbols showing games and sports. Below each symbol is a scrambled word. Rearrange the letters to get the name of the game or the sport.



a. OCKEHY



b. RCYAHRE



c. DOUJ



d. YCSGMSANTI



e. HTWEGI GINTLFI

## Grammar time

### Subject-verb agreement: Matching nouns and verbs

Read these sentences.

The mayor *presents* the flag.

The citizen *carries* the flame.

The mayors *present* the flag.

The citizens *carry* the flame.

We all know the meaning of agree, but when we talk about noun-verb agreement, we mean matching nouns and verbs according to number.

*Helping verbs* also agree with nouns.

The flag *is* paraded.

The flags *are* paraded.

The girl *was* carrying a torch.

The girls *were* carrying a torch.

The boy hugs the dog.



subject = boy    verb = hugs

Notice how the main verb remains the same when we use a helping verb.

Helping verbs are also called auxiliary verbs.



## 2. Circle the verbs that match or agree with the nouns.

- a. Caterpillars turn/turns into butterflies.
- b. A butterfly fly/flies from flower to flower.
- c. The student monitors help/helps the teachers.
- d. The students do/does their work.
- e. The men is/are planting trees on the hill.
- f. The women is/are driving tractors.
- g. The children was/were playing on the swings.
- h. I am/is learning to match nouns and verbs.
- i. We enjoy/enjoys reading mystery stories.
- j. They eat/eats lots of leafy green vegetables.



Look at the subject carefully in the given sentences. Is the subject singular (one), or plural (many)?



*The wreath* is made of olive leaves.

*The wreath* = singular. One wreath, even though it has many leaves.

*The leaves* in the wreath are from an olive tree.

*The leaves* = plural. Many leaves, even though they are in one wreath and from one olive tree.

*The plate of biscuits* is on the table.

*A plate of biscuits* = singular. One plate, even though it has many biscuits.

*The biscuits in the packet* are broken.

*The biscuits in the packet* = plural. Many biscuits, even though they are in a single packet.



*The class* is quiet.

*The class* = singular. One class, because we are speaking of all the students as one group.

*The students in the classroom* are quiet.

*The students in the classroom* = plural. Many students, even though they are in one classroom.

## 2. Fill in the blanks by using *is* or *are* to complete these sentences.

- a. The school hockey team ..... playing a match this afternoon.
- b. The players in the team ..... very good.
- c. The shelf of books ..... dusty.
- d. The books on the shelf ..... dusty.
- e. The travellers in the bus ..... tired.
- f. The bus full of travellers ..... driving up the hill.



## Pronunciation

### Syllable stress

When we say a word out loud, we put more stress on certain syllables.

With words that end in *-ic*, we put more stress on the syllable just before the *-ic*.

Practise saying these words with stress on the correct syllable.

O/lym/pic	mu/sic	co/mic	geo/graph/ic	ma/gic	pu/blic
gi/gan/tic	ac/a/dem/ic	en/er/get/ic	a/po/lo/get/ic	vol/can/ic	

## Write well

If you could change places with your favourite sportsperson for a week, who would you change place with? Write a short composition describing what you would do for that week. Here are some questions you could think about:



- What would your daily routine be?
- What would you do in your free time?
- How would you greet your fans?
- How would you feel when you won a game?
- What would you say to encourage young players?



# Listen and speak well 🎧

1. Do you recognize the symbol you see in the pictures? What does it stand for? Who designed this symbol? Let us learn a little more about it.



2. Put a tick (✓) against the sentences that are true and a cross (X) against those that are not. Listen to your teacher carefully before answering.

- a. Dr Ludwig Guttman believed that people with challenges should compete in sporting events.
- b. No one took notice of the competition at Stoke-Mandeville.
- c. The Paralympics are not as popular as other sporting events.
- d. The word *agito* means, *I move*.
- e. The motto of the Paralympics games is *Spirit in Motion*.


3. Draw a picture of your school emblem or logo and write down what your school motto stands for.

.....

.....

.....



Now, in groups, design a logo for any one of the following:

- a. your classroom
- b. the school library
- c. a sports club
- d. an environment-watch group

Then share your work with the class, explaining the importance of the pictures, colours and words that you have chosen.