Articles and Questions

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1) a PDF file

*and*

2) a Word file

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<https://support.google.com/docs/answer/187189?hl=en&co=GENIE.Platform=Desktop>

**Let the Summer Games Begin!**



Excitement is building as the world gears up for the 2024 Summer Olympics. The Games – the XXXIII Olympiad – will take place in Paris, France, from July 26 to August 11.

Some 10,500 athletes on 206 teams will stream into the city. They will compete in 329 medal events in 32 sports.

**Ready to shine**

Some 15 million visitors will descend on the French capital to watch. Canada plans to give them their money’s worth. We’re scheduled to send 210 athletes to the Summer Games – 83 men and 127 women. They will compete in 23 sports as varied as archery, table tennis, and wrestling. We’ll even take part in a new competition this year – breaking, also known as breakdancing.

Team Canada is expected to do well. Neilsen Gracenote is a data-crunching company. It predicts that Canada will win 22 medals – six gold, seven silver, and nine bronze. That would be our second-highest Summer Games total ever. It would equal what we earned at the Atlanta Summer Games in 1996 and the Rio de Janeiro Summer Olympics in 2016. Our biggest haul? The 24 medals we collected at the Tokyo Games in 2021.

**Podium prospects**

So who are we pinning our hopes on? Fans are keeping a keen eye on 17-year-old swimmer Summer McIntosh. She is a four‑time World Aquatics champion and two‑time Commonwealth Games gold medalist.

Sprint canoeist Katie Vincent is another athlete to watch. She could take silver in the women’s singles and doubles events.

Also expected to make the podium are 800-metre runner Marco Arop; decathlete Pierce LePage; judo contender Christa Deguchi; and breaker Phil Wizard.

**Historic sites**

The Stade de France, an arena in a northern suburb of Paris, will host the main sports competitions. Events will also take place at historic sites in and around the capital.

For example, a beach volleyball playing field has been built near the Eiffel Tower, one of Paris’s best-loved landmarks. As well, 19 kilometres outside Paris, the Château de Versailles will host **equestrian** and **modern pentathlon** competitions. It is the former residence of King Louis XIV. The venue for surfing will be some 15,000 kilometres away in Tahiti.

**Keeping it safe**

Keeping everyone safe is a top priority for France. The nation is on the highest security alert level in the lead-up to the Games. Some 45,000 French police, 18,000 soldiers, and 20,000 security guards are on tap to be deployed. Police from other countries are also helping.

President Macron pledged to take all necessary measures to ensure a safe and successful Games. The goal, he said, was "to show that [France] can do extraordinary things."

**A symbol of optimism**

For their part, the athletes and spectators are looking forward to cooperation and healthy competition.

“The Olympics are a wonderful **metaphor** for world cooperation,” said musician John Williams, who has composed many Olympic themes. “[It’s] the kind of competition that’s wholesome and healthy, an interplay between countries that represents the best in all of us.

**The Paralympics**

Between August 28 and September 8, Paris will also host the Paralympic Games.

These Games are a multi-sport international event for athletes with physical disabilities. They started in the United Kingdom in 1948 with a wheelchair archery competition organized for injured soldiers.

An estimated 4400 Paralympic athletes will compete this summer in Paris in 549 events. Team Canada plans to send 43 athletes who will participate in nine sports. Medal hopes are high for para cyclist Charles Moreau, among others.

**Olympic History**

The Olympics originated some 3500 years ago in Greece, but were **abolished** by the Roman Emperor in 394 A.D. Why? Because he felt that a **pagan** festival should not be held in a Christian empire. However, the Games were reintroduced to the modern world in 1894 by 24-year-old Baron Pierre de Coubertin. He believed that sport benefits humankind and encourages world peace.

The Olympic rings are the official symbol of the Olympic movement. The five interlacing blue, yellow, black, green, and red rings set upon a white background represent the union of five continents – Australia, Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. The colours were chosen because at least one of them is found on the flag of every country.

The most revered symbol of the competition is the Olympic flame. According to Greek mythology, Prometheus stole sacred fire from the gods and brought it to Earth, where it became the symbol of human reason, freedom, and creativity.

For each Olympics, a new flame is started in the ancient Olympic stadium in Olympia, Greece. The flame then lights a torch that is passed from runner to runner in a relay – first around Greece, then in the country where the Games will be held.

The Olympic Torch Relay left Olympia on April 16 and arrived in Marseille, France on May 8. The flame sailed to the host country on an historic 19th-century French tall ship. The plan was for some 10,000 torchbearers to visit 400 towns and cities, including six French overseas territories – French Guiana, New Caledonia, Réunion Island, French Polynesia, Guadeloupe, and Martinique. One place where it won’t go? Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, the small French islands 20 kilometres off the island of Newfoundland. Organizers likely thought the islands were too remote – and its population of 6000 too small – to merit a visit by the relayers.

**abolish:** to officially end something, especially a law or system

**equestrian:** to do with riding horses as a sport

**metaphor:** a way of describing something by comparing it with something else that has some of the same qualities

**modern pentathlon**: a sport that includes swimming, fencing, showjumping, and cross-country running/shooting

**pagan:** connected with religious beliefs that are not part of any of the world’s main religions

**Comprehension Questions**

1. When and where did the Olympics originate?

2. What happened to the Olympic Games in 394 A.D.?

3. Explain what Baron Pierre de Coubertin did in 1894. What were his reasons for doing this?

4. Where will the 2024 Summer Olympics take place? When will the Games start and finish?

5. How many teams and how many athletes will compete in the Games?

6. How many athletes will represent Canada at these Games?

7. What sporting event will occur after the Summer Olympics have finished?

8. List at least two important facts about these Games.

9. What is the most revered symbol of the Olympics? Explain the historical meaning of this symbol.

10. Explain what happens in Greece to launch every Olympic Games. What happens after the flame is lit?

**Questions for Further Thought**

1. The history of the Olympic Games dates back to ancient Greece about 3500 years ago, but the Olympics were abolished by the Roman Emperor in 394 A.D. Baron Pierre de Coubertin reintroduced the Games to the modern world in 1894, saying that he believed that sport benefits humankind and encourages world peace. Do you agree or disagree with his perspective? Support your opinion with reasons.

2. Despite the atmosphere of international cooperation at the Olympic Games, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has announced that Russian and Belarusian athletes will not take part in the Opening Ceremony at the 2024 Olympics in Paris. Athletes from both countries were banned following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Do you agree or disagree with this decision? Give reasons to support your response.

3. Andre de Grasse, a Canadian sprinter and six-time Olympic medalist who will be competing for Canada in Paris, had this to say: "***Never let your success go to your head. Never let your failures get in your heart.***" As you see it, what does he mean by this statement? In your opinion, how do Olympic athletes like Andre De Grasse inspire youth? Give examples to support your thinking.

**Questions For Online Exploration**

*Note*: The links below are listed at **www.lesplan.com/links** for easy access.

1. Visit the official Olympic Games websites for all of your general questions about the 2024 Paris Games: **https://olympics.com/en/**

2. Visit the official Canadian Olympic team site to learn about who will be representing Canada in Paris this summer:  
**https://olympic.ca/  
https://olympic.ca/athletes/**[**https://paralympic.ca/paris**](https://paralympic.ca/paris)

3. Explore all of the Summer Olympic sports that will be contested in this year's Games:  
**https://olympics.com/en/sports/  
https://www.sportico.com/leagues/olympics/2024/new-olympic-sports-2024-paris-1234775913/  
https://paralympic.ca/paralympic-sports**

Which sport is new to this year's Games?

4. Learn about the venues where some events will take place, some of which will be overseas departments of France:  
**https://olympics.com/en/paris-2024/venues  
https://www.worlddata.info/europe/france/index.php**

Which of these locations would you like to visit the most? Why?

5. Learn why French President Macron is considering reorganizing the Opening Ceremony:  
**https://www.cbc.ca/sports/olympics/paris-olympic-opening-ceremony-seine-river-stadium-security-1.7173801**

6. Who should Canadians be watching to bring home medals for Canada at the 2024 Paris Games?  
**https://www.cbc.ca/sports/the-buzzer-newsletter-canada-medal-predictions-paris-2024-1.7176812  
https://solutionsmedia.cbcrc.ca/en/paris-2024/paralympic-athletes-to-keep-an-eye-on-at-paris-2024  
https://www.cbc.ca/kidsnews/post/100-day-countdown-to-2024-paris-olympics-starts-now**

Who will you be cheering for in Paris? Why?

**Putting It All Together**

**A. Write the letter that corresponds to the best answer on the line beside each question:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_ 1. The five interlacing Olympic rings represent:** a) the five senses b) the ancient pentathlon  
 c) five continents d) the original five events at the Olympics

**\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2. What is the newest sport at the Summer Olympics?** a) surfing b) breaking  
 c) skateboarding d) curling

**\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Which French territory will not be included in the Olympic Torch Relay?** a) Martinique b) French Guiana  
 c) Saint-Pierre and Miquelon d) Réunion Island

**B. Mark the statements T (True) or F (False). If a statement is** True**, write one important fact to support it on the line below. If a statement is** False**, write the words that make it true on the line below.**

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 4. **True** or **False**? Baron Pierre de Coubertin re-introduced the Olympics to the modern world.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 5. **True** or **False**? The Olympic Torch relay started in Paris.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 6. **True** or **False**? The Paralympics began in 1948 after an archery event for injured veterans.

**C. Fill in the blanks to complete each sentence.**

7. About \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ athletes will compete at the Olympic Summer Games.

8. The French government is worried about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ during the Olympics.

9. Olympic surfers will compete in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

**D. Respond to the following question in paragraph form. *(Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary.)***

10. As you see it, what is the significance of international sporting competitions like the Olympic Games? Give reasons to support your response.

**Assessment Rubric**

This rubric may be helpful in providing students with formative, strength-based feedback and/or assessing students’ responses holistically. This easy-to-modify activity is included in the doc file which you can download from:   
**www.lesplan.com/subscribers**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Emerging** | **Developing** | **Proficient** | **Extending** |
| **Supports thinking** | Answers or reflections are brief and include obvious facts/details/ evidence. | Answers or reflections are general and supported with some relevant facts/details/evidence. | Answers or reflections are clearly supported with specific, relevant facts/details/evidence. | Answers or reflections are insightful and supported with specific, relevant facts/details/evidence. |
| **Shows understanding** | Responses show a basic understanding of the text, topic, issue or message. | Responses are thoughtful and show a general understanding of the text, topic, issue or message. | Responses are thoughtful and show a complete understanding of the text, topic, issue or message. | Responses are insightful and show a deep understanding the text, topic, issue or message. May synthesize ideas or explain the ‘so what’. |
| **Thinks  critically** | Makes straightforward connections or inferences. Focuses on retelling. | Makes logical connections to self (T:S) and/or background knowledge (T:S). Inferences are logical | Makes meaningful connections to self. Considers ideas between texts (T:T).  Inferences are plausible. | Makes powerful connections that go between texts and/or beyond the text (T:W).  Inferences are plausible and insightful. |

