

Olympic Quiz

Duration: 20 minutes

Target group: Children aged 12–13 years

Activity leader: 1

Preparation (activity leader)

Familiarise yourself with the questions

Description

Ten questions to test the participants' Olympic knowledge. True or false?
Who will be the first to find the answer?

Instructions

1. Form two groups. Explain to the participants that they will have to guess if the information you read them is true or false. Read points 1 to 10, leaving a few seconds for each group to agree on the right answer ("true" or "false"), noting this on a piece of paper alongside the question number.
2. When you have finished, go over each question, asking each group what they answered. Give the correct response and the explanation that goes with it (or ask if anyone knows the answer). *Depending on the age of the group and the time available, start a discussion on the theme of the questions.*
3. The group which gives the most correct answers is the winner.

You can of course use the quiz for other activities or in other way (e.g. individual answers, search for the right answers on the internet, etc.).

Q1

Each colour of the Olympic rings represents a particular continent.

False

This is a misconception. In reality, the rings represent the union of the five continents and the coming-together of the whole world's athletes at the Olympic Games. As for the colours of the flag, they were chosen because at least one of them (blue, black, red, yellow, green and white) can be found in each national flag.

Q2

One of the missions of the Olympic Movement is to promote peace in the world.

True

"The goal of Olympism is to place sport at the service of the harmonious development of humankind, with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity."

This is the second of the six Fundamental Principles of Olympism set out in the "Olympic Charter", the document which governs the organisation, actions and functioning of the Olympic Movement.

Q3

The Games host city is chosen in a draw from among the candidate cities.

False

The IOC members elect the Olympic Games host cities with an absolute majority (i.e. half the votes plus one). This happens seven years before the Games are held, at a meeting called the Session. Custom dictates that the IOC President does not take part in the vote.

Q4

The Olympic Anthem was written by Rod Stewart, a 1980s singer.

False

The music was composed by Spiros Samaras and the words were written by Costis Palamas. The Olympic Anthem was played for the first time in 1896, at the Opening Ceremony of the first modern Olympic Games. It was later replaced by several other musical compositions (but none by Rod Stewart). It was only in 1955 that it finally became the official anthem.

Q5

The Olympic motto – CITIUS ALTIUS FORTIUS – means “Proud, tall, strong”.

False

The three Latin words mean “faster, higher, stronger”. These three words encourage the athlete to give the best of himself during competition. To better understand the motto, we can compare it to the Olympic saying: “The important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle, the essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well.”

Q6

Ice hockey and figure skating were on the Summer Games programme.

Neither true nor false

Skating was on the programme of the 1908 Games and ice hockey from 1920. At this time, there was no distinction between the winter and summer Games and the events could be staged over several months. It was only from 1925 that the IOC officially decided to separate the two events.

Q7

Pierre de Coubertin, reviver of the Games, took part in the Games under a false name.

True

His “Ode to Sport” entered under a pseudonym for the Stockholm (1912) Olympic Games, won him first prize in the Art and Literature Contest, an event on the programme at the time.

Q8

50kg stone-lifting was on the Olympic programme.

True

It was part of the gymnastics all-round event in 1900, as was rope climbing and the pole vault! Sports, disciplines and events... the Games programme is continuously updated. Today, the Summer Games comprises 26 sports and the Winter Games seven. In the selection criteria it is specified that only sports that apply the World Anti-Doping Code can be included or remain on the programme.

Q9

London is the only city to have hosted three Olympic Games.

True

London hosted the Olympic Games in 1908, 1948 and 2012. Six other cities have hosted the Games twice: Athens (1896 and 2004), Paris (1900 and 1924), St Moritz (1928 and 1948), Lake Placid (1932 and 1980), Los Angeles (1932 and 1984) and Innsbruck (1964 and 1976).

Q10

The marathon was on the programme of the Olympic Games of Antiquity.

False

The marathon was not staged at the Games in Antiquity. This race was created for the Athens Games in 1896 to commemorate the legend of the Greek soldier who, in 490 BC, ran from Marathon to announce to the people of Athens the military victory over Persia (distance: about 34.5km). At the London 1908 Games, the distance of the race was extended, from 25 to 26.2 miles (42.195km), so that it could end in front of the Royal Box. This distance then became the standard for the marathon event and has remained so until today.