

Olympic Games Activity Pack

UK Spelling/A4 page size





The Olympics

Did you know?

The Olympics in Ancient Times

The 'Ancient Olympic Games' first took place in the 8th Century B.C. in Olympia, Greece and were a celebration of the Greek God Zeus. They often took up to six months to complete and were held every four years for 12 centuries. Sports such as wrestling, javelin, discus and chariot racing were contested by only male athletes. The Ancient Olympic Games ceased in the 4th Century A.D when all pagan festivals were banned by the Roman Emperor, Theodosius I.

Winners in these Olympic Games were awarded a wreath made of olive leaves. These wreaths were known as kotinos and were said to have been gathered from the sacred wild olive trees in Olympia.

Modern Olympics

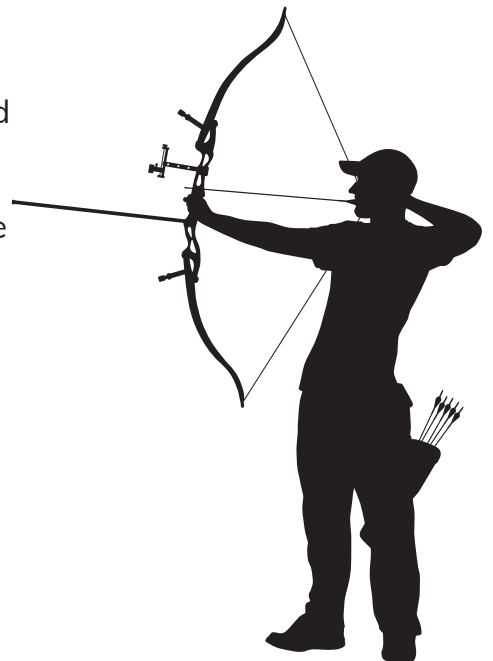
The games were revived in the 19th Century through the ideas and hard work of several people, the most notable of whom was Pierre de Coubertin, and were subsequently known as the 'Modern Olympics'.

The first of these modern games was held in Athens, Greece in 1896 with 14 nations and 280 participants competing in 43 events, including track and field, swimming, tennis, wrestling, gymnastics, weightlifting, shooting and fencing. Like the ancient games only male athletes competed in 1896. In 1900 female athletes became eligible to compete, however it took until the 2012 London Olympics for all participating nations to include female athletes in their teams.

The modern games follow the ancient tradition of being held every four years. This schedule has only altered four times. In 1916, 1940 and 1944 the games were cancelled due to war, and in 2020 the Tokyo games were moved to 2021 due to the COVID worldwide pandemic.

International Olympic Committee

The Modern Olympic Games are overseen by an international committee established in June 1894. It is a not-for-profit independent committee based in Lausanne, Switzerland. Their vision is to **Build a Better World through Sport**. More information about the International Olympic Committee can be found at olympics.com.



The Modern Olympics Expand

The first Winter Olympic Games was held in 1924 in Chamonix, France. The aim of the Winter Olympics was to include snow and ice sports. Like the Summer Olympics, new sports have been added over the years.

Between 1924 and 1992, the Winter Games were held in the same year as the Summer Games but in a different city. In 1994 the Summer and Winter Games moved to a staggered two-year schedule.

The Paralympics

In 1944, Dr Ludwig Guttman opened a spinal injuries center in Great Britain for war veterans and civilians injured in war. Over time, his rehabilitation sport program became competitive and in 1948 the Stoke Manderville Games were held. These games coincided with the 1948 London Olympics.

In 1952, the Stoke Manderville Games became an international event with Dutch ex-servicemen joining the movement and competing in the games. The Stoke Manderville Games were renamed the Paralympic Games in 1960 when 400 athletes from 23 nations travelled to Rome to compete. They have continued every four years since then.

From 1988 onwards, following an agreement between the International Paralympic Committee and International Olympic Committee, the Paralympics have been held in the same year and in the same cities and venues as the Summer and Winter Olympics.

Olympic Symbols and Brand

The Olympic symbol of 5 interlocking rings symbolises the union of the five inhabited continents (Asia, Africa, Europe, Oceania and the Americas) and the participation of all nations and all athletes. It was designed by Pierre de Coubertin and publicly presented in 1913. The Olympic flag made its first appearance at the 1920 Antwerp Games.

The five colours - blue (Oceania), yellow (Asia), black (Africa), green (Europe) and red (the Americas) were chosen so that, in combination with the white background, they would include the colours of all national flags worldwide. The overlap of the rings represents the co-operation of all nations and the coming together of all the athletes.

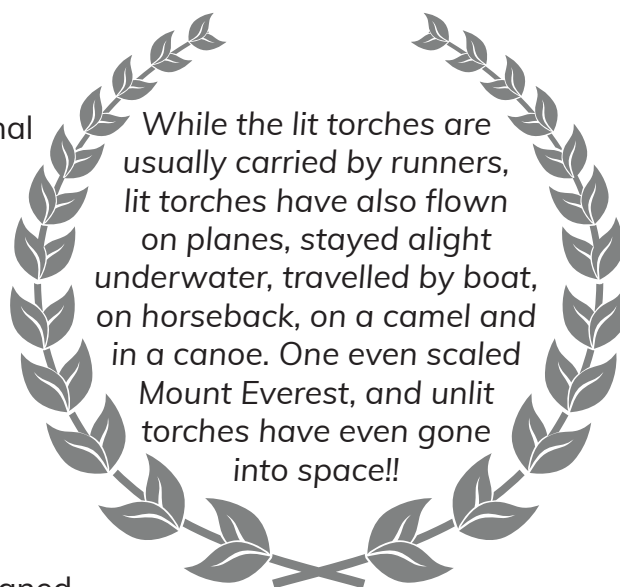
The Olympic Rings are subject to copyright and can only be used with approval of the IOC.

The Olympic Flame

The Olympic Flame provides a link back to the original ancient games. The torch is lit by the sun during a ceremony in Olympia, Greece before it starts on an international relay that ends in the host city.

As part of the Opening Ceremony, the Olympic Flame Cauldron is ignited by the relay torch. This cauldron flame burns for the duration of the games before being snuffed during the Closing Ceremony.

The relay torches were first used at the 1936 Berlin Olympics and are unique to each games, being designed by the host city. Thousands of copies are made for the journey from Olympia to the Opening Ceremony. Each relay torch bearer gets to keep their torch as a memento.



While the lit torches are usually carried by runners, lit torches have also flown on planes, stayed alight underwater, travelled by boat, on horseback, on a camel and in a canoe. One even scaled Mount Everest, and unlit torches have even gone into space!!

Olympic Languages

The official languages of the games are English and French, complemented by the official language of the host country. You will hear all 3 languages during Olympic events.

The Olympic Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies

The Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Olympic Games distinguish them from other international sporting events. The formal opening and closing protocols were put into place at the 1920 Antwerp Games with minor adjustments made over the following games.

The Opening Ceremony always includes:

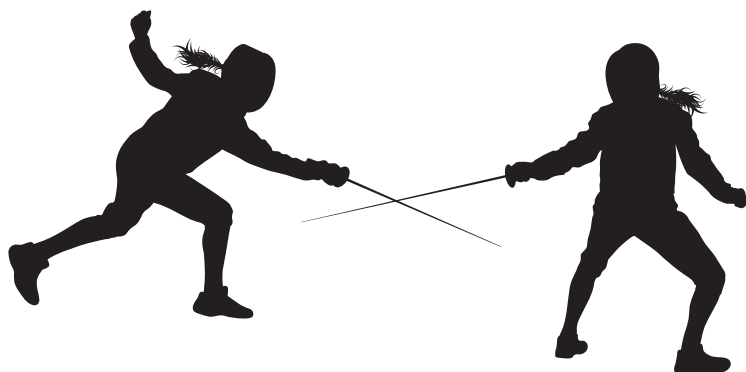
- Official entrance of Head of State and IOC President
- Playing of the host nation's anthem
- The parade of athletes
- The symbolic release of doves
- Olympic Laurel Award
- Official Speeches
- Opening of the Games
- Raising the Olympic flag and playing the Olympic Anthem
- Athletes, judges and coaches' oath
- Lighting of the Olympic flame
- The artistic program of music, song and dance inviting people to discover the culture of the host country.

The Closing Ceremony always includes:

- Official entrance of Head of State and IOC President
- Playing of the host nation's anthem
- Entry of the host nation's flag
- The parade of the athletes
- Victory ceremonies
- Introduction of the IOC Athletes' Commission newly elected members
- Moment of remembrance
- Playing of the Greek national anthem
- Lowering the Olympic flag and handover ceremony to the next host city.
- Next host city's artistic program
- OCOG President's speech and IOC President's speech
- Extinguishing the Olympic flame

The Olympic Sport Roster

The number of sports contested at the Summer Games has changed over the years. For example there were 26 sports in 2012, 28 sports in 2016 and 33 sports in 2020 with 32 sports being included on the 2024 Paris Summer Games roster.



Between 1912 and 1948, artisans also competed for medals in the Summer Olympics.

Painters, sculptors, architects, writers and musicians competed in their respective fields.



Only athletics, cycling, fencing, swimming and gymnastics have been contested at every Modern Olympic Summer Games since its inception in 1896.

The 2024 roster changes include the addition of skateboarding, breaking, sport climbing and surfing while karate, softball and baseball have been dropped from the roster for Paris.



Olympic Medals

Gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded to competitors at the Olympics and Paralympics and represent the highest levels of athletic achievement. The design of the medals is the responsibility of the host city's organising committee, and varies at each Games. The medals are circular in shape, attached to a ribbon and awarded during a ceremony.

The 2024 Paris medals contain a small amount of scrap metal from the Eiffel Tower. To make this unique inclusion, iron removed from the Eiffel Tower during work to modernise the elevators was kept for this purpose. It was then reworked into a hexagon shape that adorns each medal.

The gold and bronze medals are not solid gold or bronze. The gold medal is silver, coated with a 24 carat gold. The bronze medal is a combination of copper, zinc, tin and a small amount of silver.



Summer Olympic Games

Sports Equipment Word Scramble



Name: _____

ENISTN CQUETAR	
MISMWNGI PCA	
KCOYEH KCSIT	
OVYELL LABL	
TCHAY	
EVJANIL	
HTOS TPU	
FLIRE	
UROBFADRS	
ONEAC	
CBELYCI	
DRTEKOSBAA	
IIVNGD ORDAB	
XBOGNI SVLGOE	
SOREH	
RWORA	

Summer Olympic Games

Sports Word Search



Name: _____



Circle or highlight each of the following words as you find it in the word search grid. Words may run across, down, up, backwards and diagonally and may overlap.

ARCHERY
ATHLETICS
BADMINTON
BASKETBALL
BOXING
BREAKING
CANOEING
CYCLING
DIVING
EQUESTRIAN

FENCING
FIELD
GOLF
GYMNASTICS
HANDBALL
HOCKEY
JUDO
KARATE
LACROSSE
PENTATHLON

ROWING
RUGBY
SAILING
SHOOTING
SKATEBOARDING
SQUASH
SURFING
SWIMMING
TAEKWONDO
TENNIS

TRACK
TRAMPOLINE
TRIATHLON
VOLLEYBALL
WALKING
WATER POLO
WEIGHTLIFTING
WRESTLING

Summer Olympic Games

Host City Word Search



Name: _____



Circle or highlight each of the following words as you find it in the word search grid. Words may run across, down, up and may overlap.

AMSTERDAM	BERLIN	MONTREAL	STOCKHOLM
ANTWERP	HELSINKI	MOSCOW	ST. LOUIS
ATHENS	LONDON	MUNICH	SYDNEY
ATLANTA	LOS ANGELES	PARIS	TOKYO
BARCELONA	MELBOURNE	ROME	
BEIJING	MEXICO CITY	SEOUL	

Summer Olympic Games Research



Name: _____

Name the city and country that hosted the Summer Olympics for each of these years.

1896 _____

1904 _____

1972 _____

1996 _____

2000 _____

1948 _____

1988 _____

1956 _____

2012 _____

1976 _____

1952 _____

1968 _____

1992 _____

1912 _____

2024 _____

Olympic Athlete Research Sheet

Name: _____

Choose an athlete and research the following details.

Athlete's Name: _____

Age: _____ Place of birth: _____

Sport: _____

Country they represent: _____

Number of Olympic Games attended: _____

Years they competed at the Olympics: _____



Photo

Have they won any medals? YES NO

If yes, how many;

Gold _____

Silver _____

Bronze _____

Olympic Athlete Research Sheet

Three interesting facts about this athlete

1. _____

2. _____

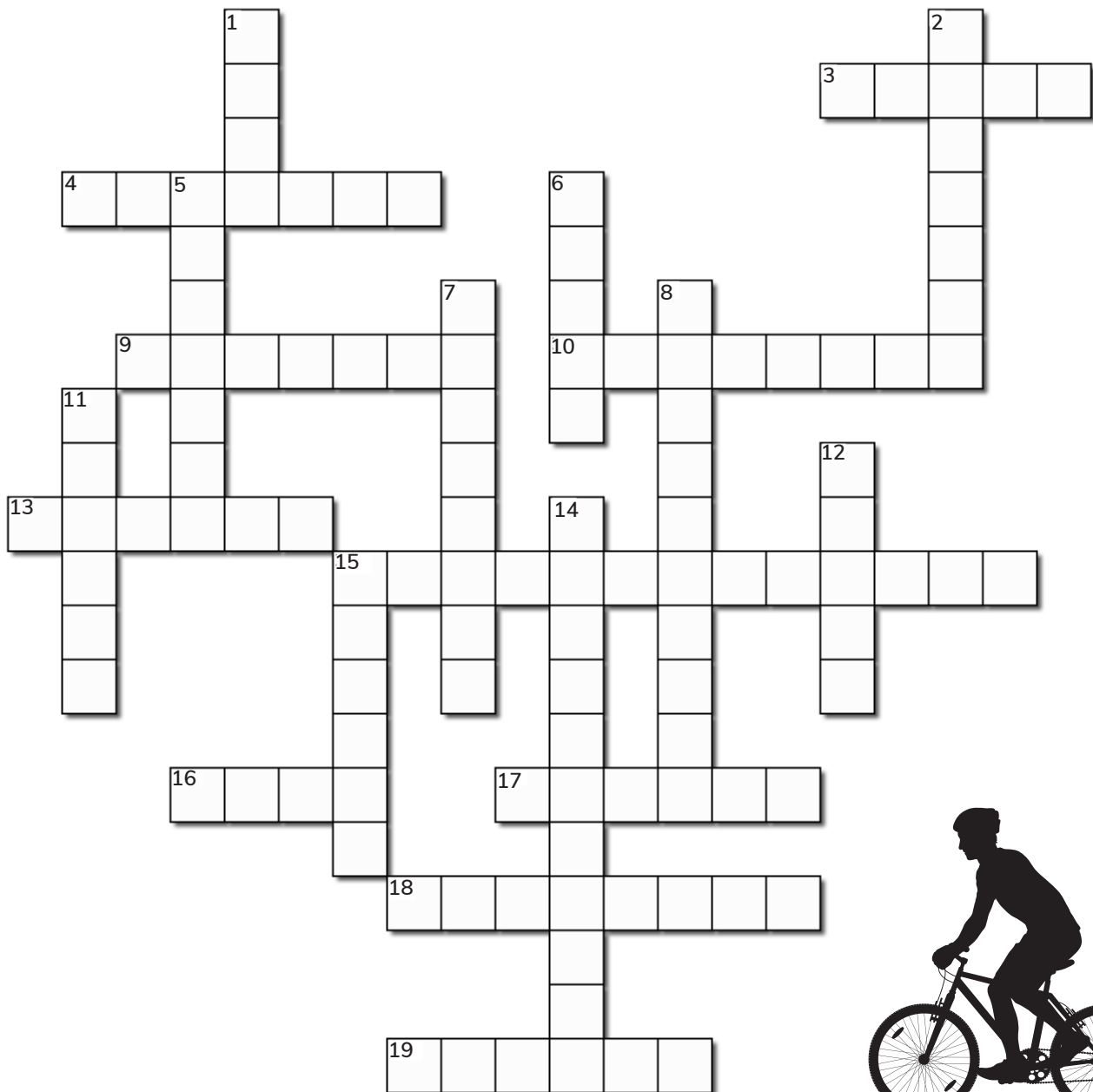
3. _____

Why I find this athlete inspirational:



Olympic Games Crossword

Name: _____



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Across

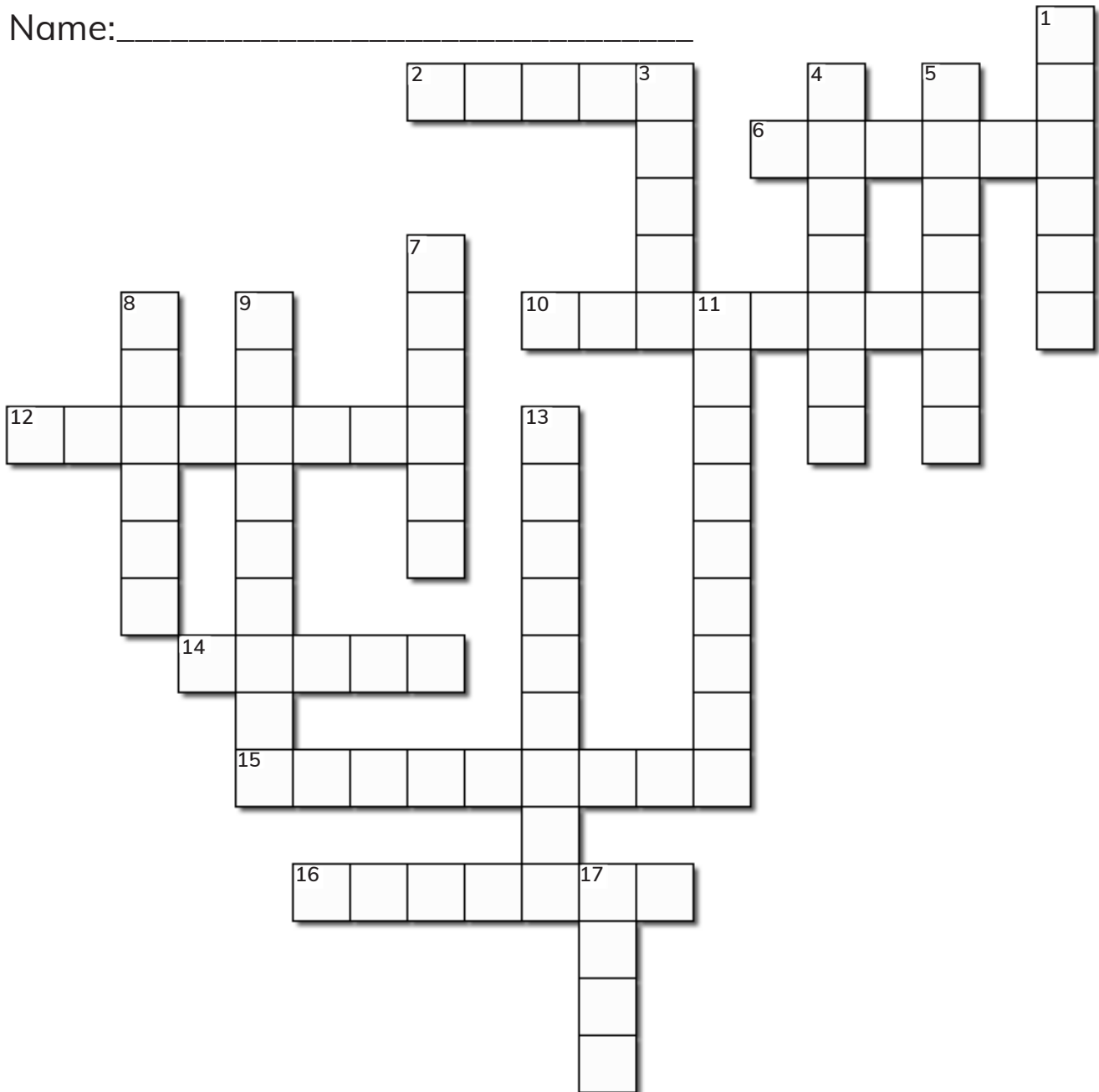
3. 2024 host city
4. Large sporting complex
9. Home of the Ancient Games
10. There is one to open the Games
13. County of the Ancient Games
15. One of the new sports in the 2024 Games
16. You need one to compete in cycling
17. 1896 host city
18. A long distance race
19. Colour of third place medal

Down

1. Colour of first place medal
2. Sport with bows and arrows
5. Person who competes
6. Carries the Olympic flame on its long journey
7. One of the sports removed from the 2024 roster
8. You bounce high on one of these
11. A _____ of athletes enters the stadium during the opening ceremony
12. This is awarded to athletes
14. A multi-event competition
15. Colour of second place medal

Summer Olympic Host Cities Crossword

Name: _____



Across

- 2. 2024
- 6. 1896
- 10. 1952
- 12. 1976
- 14. 1964
- 15. 1928
- 16. 1920

Down

- 1. 1980
- 3. 1988
- 4. 1996
- 5. 2008
- 7. 1936
- 8. 1948
- 9. 1992
- 11. 1912
- 13. 1956
- 17. 1960



Modern Olympic Games

True or False



Read each statement below and circle it as true or false.

The first modern Olympic Games was held in 1896. True / False

The Olympic Flame for each games is ignited in Olympia, Greece. True / False

The official Olympic languages are German and English. True / False

There are 6 rings in the Olympic logo. True / False

Breaking is a new sport at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. True / False

The Paralympic Games are held in the same year as the Olympic Games. True / False

The Olympic Games have never been cancelled. True / False

The Olympic Torch Relay is only carried by runners. True / False

The 2024 Paris medals contain a small piece of the Eiffel Tower. True / False

Female athletes have competed at all Modern Olympics. True / False

The 2020 Tokyo Olympics were held in 2021. True / False

The Torch relay was first introduced at the 1940 Olympic Games. True / False

Swimming events have been held at all Modern Olympic Games. True / False

Olympic Games Activity Pack

Answer Sheets

UK Spelling/A4 page size



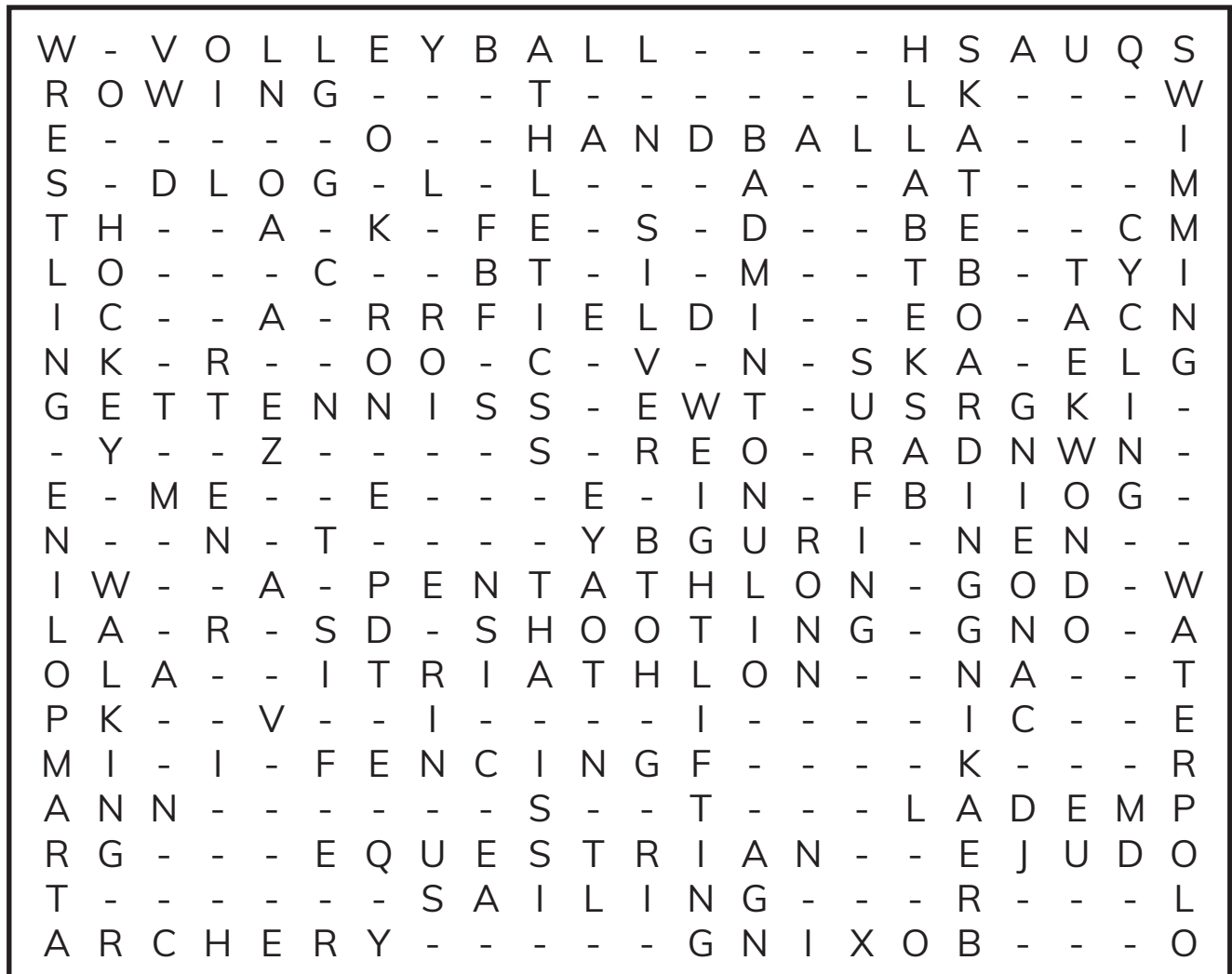
Summer Olympic Games

Sports Equipment Word Scramble

ENISTN CQUETAR	TENNIS RAQUET
MISMWNGI PCA	SWIMMING CAP
KCOYEH KCSIT	HOCKEY STICK
OVYELL LABL	VOLLEY BALL
TCHAY	YACHT
EVJANIL	JAVELIN
HTOS TPU	SHOT PUT
FLIRE	RIFLE
UROBFADRS	SURFBOARD
ONEAC	CANOE
CBELYCI	BICYCLE
DRTEKOSBAA	SKATEBOARD
IIVNGD ORDAB	DIVING BOARD
XBOGNI SVLGOE	BOXING GLOVES
SOREH	HORSE
RWORA	ARROW

Summer Olympic Games

Sports Word Search



Circle or highlight each of the following words as you find it in the word search grid. Words may run across, down, up, backwards and diagonally and may overlap.

ARCHERY	FENCING	ROWING	TRACK
ATHLETICS	FIELD	RUGBY	TRAMPOLINE
BADMINTON	GOLF	SAILING	TRIATHLON
BASKETBALL	GYMNASTICS	SHOOTING	VOLLEYBALL
BOXING	HANDBALL	SKATEBOARDING	WALKING
BREAKING	HOCKEY	SQUASH	WATER POLO
CANOEING	JUDO	SURFING	WEIGHTLIFTING
CYCLING	KARATE	SWIMMING	WRESTLING
DIVING	LACROSSE	TAEKWONDO	
EQUESTRIAN	PENTATHLON	TENNIS	

Summer Olympic Games

Host City Word Search



Circle or highlight each of the following words as you find it in the word search grid. Words may run across, down, up and may overlap.

AMSTERDAM

BERLIN

MONTREAL

STOCKHOLM

ANTWERP

HELSINKI

MOSCOW

ST. LOUIS

ATHENS

LONDON

MUNICH

SYDNEY

ATLANTA

LOS ANGELES

PARIS

TOKYO

BARCELONA

MELBOURNE

ROME

BEIJING

MEXICO CITY

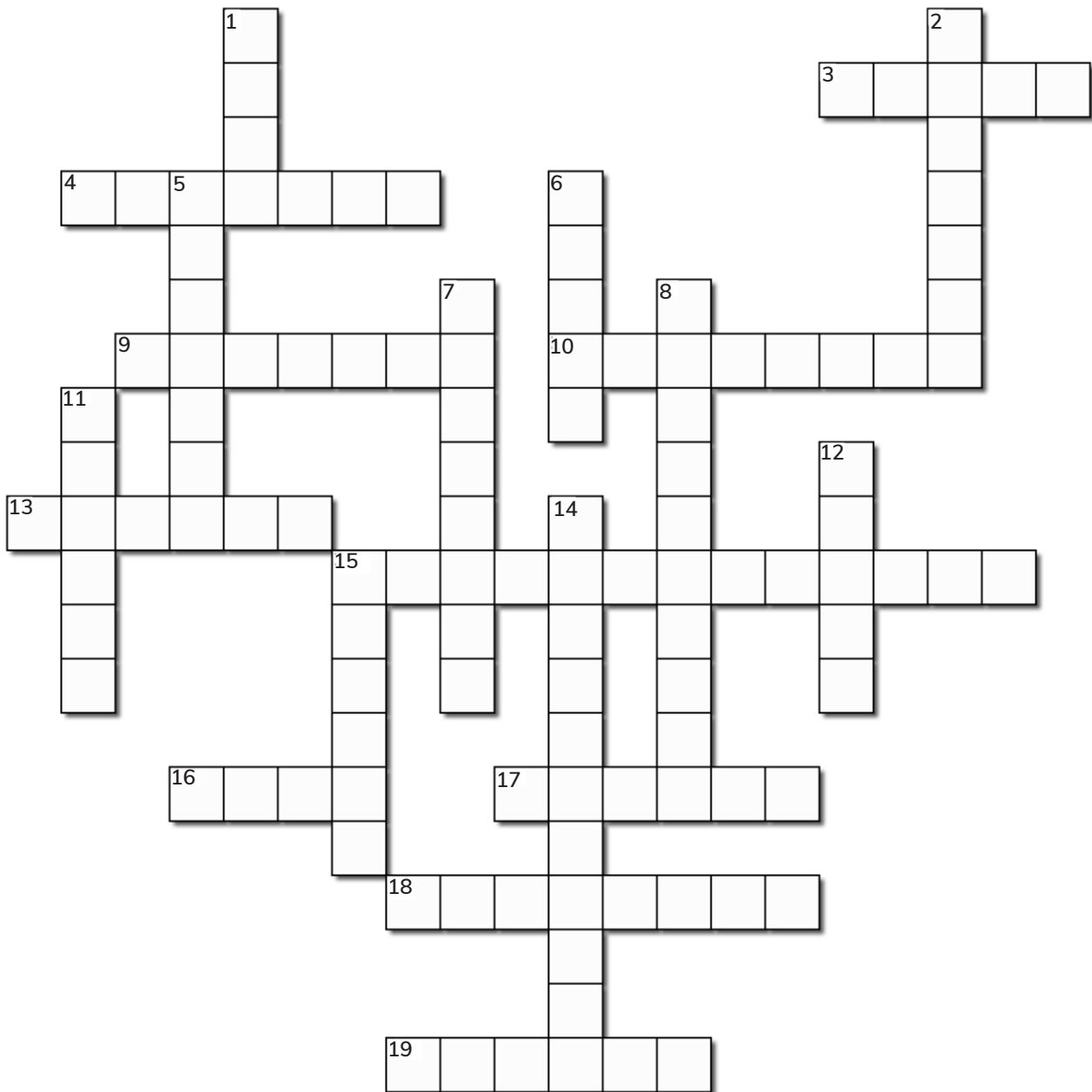
SEOUL

Summer Olympic Games Research

Name the city and country that hosted the Summer Olympics for each of these years.

1896	Athens, Greece
1904	St Louis, USA
1972	Munich, West Germany
1996	Atlanta, USA
2000	Sydney, Australia
1948	London, England
1988	Seoul, South Korea
1956	Melbourne, Australia
2012	London, England
1976	Montreal, Canada
1952	Helsinki, Finland
1968	Mexico City, Mexico
1992	Barcelona, Spain
1912	Stockholm, Sweden
2024	Paris, France

Olympic Games Crossword



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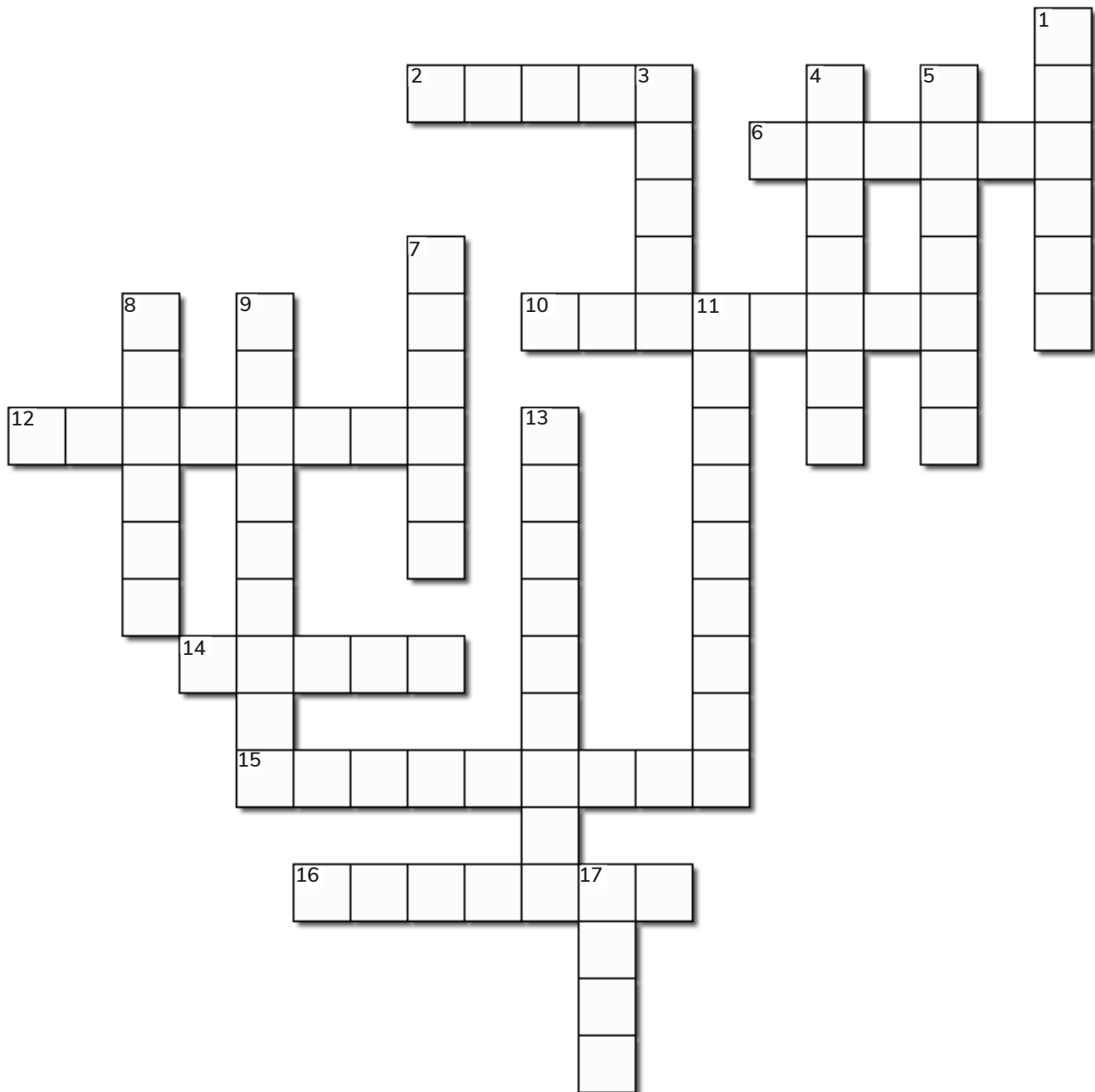
Across

3. 2024 host city - PARIS
4. Large sporting complex - STADIUM
9. Home of the Ancient Games - OLYMPIA
10. There is one to open the Games - CEREMONY
13. County of the Ancient Games - GREECE
15. One of the newer sports in the 2024 Games - SKATEBOARDING
16. You need one to compete in cycling - BIKE
17. 1896 host city - ATHENS
18. A long distance race - MARATHON
19. Colour of third place medal - BRONZE

Down

1. Colour of first place medal - GOLD
2. Sport with bows and arrows - ARCHERY
5. Person who competes - ATHLETE
6. Carries the Olympic flame on its long journey - TORCH
7. One of the sports removed from the 2024 roster - BASEBALL
8. You bounce high on one of these - TRAMPOLINE
11. A PARADE of athletes enters the stadium during the opening ceremony
12. This is awarded to athletes - MEDAL
14. A multi-event competition - PENTATHLON
15. Colour of second place medal - SILVER

Summer Olympic Host Cities Crossword



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Across

- 2. 2024 - Paris
- 6. 1896 - Athens
- 10. 1952 - Helsinki
- 12. 1976 - Montreal
- 14. 1964 - Tokyo
- 15. 1928 - Amsterdam
- 16. 1920 - Antwerp

Down

- 1. 1980 - Moscow
- 3. 1988 - Seoul
- 4. 1996 - Atlanta
- 5. 2008 - Beijing
- 7. 1936 - Berlin
- 8. 1948 - London
- 9. 1992 - Barcelona
- 11. 1912 - Stockholm
- 13. 1956 - Melbourne
- 17. 1960 - Rome

Modern Olympic Games

True or False

Read each statement below and circle it as true or false.

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| The first modern Olympic Games was held in 1896. | True |
| The Olympic Flame for each games is ignited in Olympia, Greece. | True |
| The official Olympic languages are German and English. | False |
| There are 6 rings in the Olympic logo. | False |
| Breaking is a new sport at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. | True |
| The Paralympic Games are held in the same year as the Olympic Games. | True |
| The Olympic Games have never been cancelled. | False |
| The Olympic Torch Relay is only carried by runners. | False |
| The 2024 Paris medals contain a small piece of the Eiffel Tower. | True |
| Female athletes have competed at all Modern Olympics. | False |
| The 2020 Tokyo Olympics were held in 2021. | True |
| The Torch relay was first introduced at the 1940 Olympic Games. | False |
| Swimming events have been held at all Modern Olympic Games. | True |

Summer Olympic Games Host Cities

1896	Athens, Greece	2008	Beijing, China
1900	Paris, France	2012	London, England
1904	St. Louis, USA	2016	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
1908	London, England	2020	Tokyo, Japan (postponed to 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic)
1912	Stockholm, Sweden	2024	Paris, France
1916	Cancelled (WWI – Berlin had been awarded)	2028	Los Angeles, USA
1920	Antwerp, Belgium	2032	Brisbane, Australia
1924	Paris, France		
1928	Amsterdam, Netherlands		
1932	Los Angeles, USA		
1936	Berlin, Germany		
1940	Cancelled (WWII – Tokyo had been awarded)		
1944	Cancelled (WWII – London had been awarded)		
1948	London, England		
1952	Helsinki, Finland		
1956	Melbourne, Australia		
1960	Rome, Italy		
1964	Tokyo, Japan		
1968	Mexico City, Mexico		
1972	Munich, West Germany		
1976	Montreal, Canada		
1980	Moscow, Soviet Union		
1984	Los Angeles, USA		
1988	Seoul, South Korea		
1992	Barcelona, Spain		
1996	Atlanta, USA		
2000	Sydney, Australia		
2004	Athens, Greece		

Winter Olympic Games Host Cities

- 1924 Chamonix, France
- 1928 St. Moritz, Switzerland
- 1932 Lake Placid, USA
- 1936 Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany
- 1940 Cancelled (WWII – Sapporo had been awarded)
- 1944 Cancelled (WWII – Cortina d'Ampezzo had been awarded)
- 1948 St. Moritz, Switzerland
- 1952 Oslo, Norway
- 1956 Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy
- 1960 Squaw Valley, USA
- 1964 Innsbruck, Austria
- 1968 Grenoble, France
- 1972 Sapporo, Japan
- 1976 Innsbruck, Austria
- 1980 Lake Placid, USA
- 1984 Sarajevo, Yugoslavia
- 1988 Calgary, Canada
- 1992 Albertville, France
- 1994 Lillehammer, Norway
- 1998 Nagano, Japan
- 2002 Salt Lake City, USA
- 2006 Turin, Italy
- 2010 Vancouver, Canada
- 2014 Sochi, Russia
- 2018 Pyeongchang, South Korea
- 2022 Beijing, China
- 2026 Milan – Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy

Paralympic Host Cities

Summer Paralympic Games

1960 Rome, Italy
1964 Tokyo, Japan
1968 Tel Aviv, Israel
1972 Heidelberg, West Germany
1976 Toronto, Canada
1980 Arnhem, Netherlands
1984 Stoke Mandeville, England & New York, USA
1988 Seoul, South Korea
1992 Barcelona, Spain
1996 Atlanta, USA
2000 Sydney, Australia
2004 Athens, Greece
2008 Beijing, China
2012 London, England
2016 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
2020 Tokyo, Japan (postponed to 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic)
2024 Paris, France
2028 Los Angeles, USA
2032 Brisbane, Australia

Winter Paralympic Games

1976 Örnköldsvik, Sweden
1980 Geilo, Norway
1984 Innsbruck, Austria
1988 Innsbruck, Austria
1992 Tignes-Albertville, France
1994 Lillehammer, Norway
1998 Nagano, Japan
2002 Salt Lake City, USA
2006 Turin, Italy
2010 Vancouver, Canada
2014 Sochi, Russia
2018 Pyeongchang, South Korea
2022 Beijing, China
2026 Milan – Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy