

Topic: The Olympics

Let's get started...

Have you ever watched the Olympics? Has the Olympics ever been hosted in your native country? Do you prefer the Summer Olympics or the Winter Olympics?

Background:

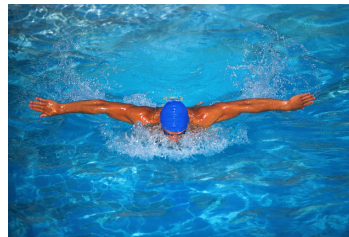
The Olympic festival was the most important and oldest Greek festival. It started as a religious festival that was dedicated to Zeus, their most powerful god. Later, it turned into a big athletic competition. Every four years, people gathered in Olympia, Greece, during the summer and had athletic competitions. Now the Olympics have become an international athletic competition. Every two years, we have either the Summer Olympics or the Winter Olympics. This summer, the Summer Olympics will be held in Beijing, China. In 2010, the Winter Olympics will be held in Vancouver, Canada.



In pairs for 5 minutes, ask and answer these questions:

- Do you play sports? Have you ever played a sport?
- What sports have you played?
- Do you watch sports on TV? Do you attend sporting events?

Share your partner's answers with the group.



Discussion Questions:

Did you ever compete in a sport? (In school or as an adult.)

Do you enjoy competing with friends and family in games? Why or why not?

Do you think that competition is good for children? Why or why not?

Have you ever been to the Olympic Games? Have you ever watched them on TV?

What is your favorite thing about watching the Olympics? Do you watch them with your family or with your friends?

Do you watch the opening ceremony on TV? What do you think about the ceremony?

What is your favorite Olympic sport? Does that sport occur during the Winter or Summer Olympics?

Have the Olympics ever been held in your native country? When, and in what city?

Did you visit that city during the Olympics? What did you do?

Who is the best professional athlete in your native country? In the world?

Are you going to watch the Olympics on TV this year? What events will you watch?

Do you think the Olympics are important? Why or why not?

Some people think the Olympics promote world friendship. How do you feel about that?

Does your native country participate in the Olympics? Do they do better in the Summer Olympics or in the Winter Olympics?

Are the Olympics popular in your native country?

If you could compete in an Olympic sport, what sport would you choose? Why?

What is the most popular sport in your native country?

New words and Idioms:

Competition, event, triathlon, decathlon, judge, medal, race, compete, break a leg, good luck, professional, marathon, festival, figure skating, gold, silver, bronze, ceremony, athlete, award, competitor