

The Olympic Games

Every second year contestants from all over the world meet to test their skills: alternatively in the winter and in the summer. The first Olympic Games can be traced back to 776 BC – and every time they are a hit with athletes and spectators alike. Let's find out more about the Olympic Games.

1 A timeline: The history of the Olympic Games

First, inform yourself about the history of the Olympic Games and compile the results of your research in an interactive timeline.

- a) Visit the internet pages below or any other resources and collect ten interesting events and situations that are connected with the Olympic Games. Don't just list ten years in which some of the Games took place but choose events that you found surprising or were influential for the development of the Games.



[The official homepage of the Olympic Games](#)



[Information on the ancient Olympic Games](#)



[Information on how the modern Olympic Games were created](#)

- b) Now use the ten dates you collected to create a timeline that gives an overview of your findings.



[Timeline generator](#)

- b) Print out your timeline and share it with your classmates. Compare your timelines and discuss your thoughts on why you regarded these ten events as the most interesting or influential.

2 Reading and writing: Why to host the Games

The Olympic Games are not only about sports and competition, there is also money and business involved. So, there is fierce competition every time a new hosting city is chosen. But is it really worth all that money and effort to host the Olympic Games?

- a) Find out more about how the Olympic locations are chosen and in which cities Olympic Games have already been held:

- Which of these cities have you already visited?
- Have you noticed anything about the Olympic Games there?
- Which of these Olympic Games have you seen on TV?



[How the Olympic locations are chosen](#)



[World map of Olympics host cities](#)

- b) Now quickly skim through internet discussions about the question whether it is worth for a city to host the Olympic Games or not. Take notes focusing on the four aspects on the next page:

Money	Jobs	Publicity	National pride
+ revenue outweighs the cost - hosting is very expensive			



[Discussion on www.debate.org](http://www.debate.org)



[Discussion on Debatepedia](http://debatepedia.com)

c) Using your notes from above, write a summary in which you give an overview of the most important arguments in favour of or against hosting the Olympic Games. In your final paragraph, assess the points you mentioned and come to a conclusion showing your own personal opinion on the matter.

3 Listening: Winter Olympics Vancouver 2010 official theme song

Nikki Yanofsky is a Canadian jazz and pop singer. Her single *I believe* was picked by the Canadian television network CTV as their official song for the 2010 Winter Olympics broadcasts. Nikki Yanofsky also sang the Canadian national anthem at the Winter Olympics opening ceremonies.

a) Listen to the following recording of *I believe*, available on YouTube, and complete the lyrics with the missing words:



Nikky Yanofsky - *I believe*:
<http://youtube.com/>

I believe

There comes a
When my must stand alone
On this path I've chosen
Like a house that's not a
Sometimes when I feel I've had
And I feel like up
You willed me to be all I can
Now can stop me

This is the
We have of all our lives
We'll be the we wish from others
We'll stand for what is right
And in my there'll be no doubt
The arms of the will come out
And me to be all I can be
Now can stop me

Chorus

I believe in the that comes
From a world brought as one
I believe together we'll
I believe in the power of and I

Chorus

I believe the is right now
Stand and make the world proud
I believe we'll fly
I believe in the power of you and I

(Nikky Yanofsky, 2010)

b) With a partner, discuss the following questions:

- What does this song have to do with the spirit of the Olympic Games?
- How do you like this song?
- How does it make you feel?
- Which images can you see in the video to the song?

Key

3 Listening: Winter Olympics Vancouver 2010 official theme song**I believe**

There comes a moment
When my heart must stand alone
On this lonely path I've chosen
Like a house that's not a home
Sometimes when I feel I've had enough
And I feel like giving up
You willed me to be all I can be
Now nothing can stop me

Chorus

I believe in the power that comes
From a world brought together as one
I believe together we'll fly
I believe in the power of you and I

This is the moment
We have dreamed of all our lives
We'll be the change we wish from others
We'll stand tall for what is right
And in my heart there'll be no doubt
The arms of the will come reaching out
And embrace me to be all I can be
Now nothing can stop me

Chorus

I believe the time is right now
Stand tall and make the world proud
I believe together we'll fly
I believe in the power of you and I

(Nikky Yanofsky, 2010)