

Rio Olympics 2016

The Olympic Games 2016 will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It is the first time the Olympic Games have been held in South America. The Games will run for nineteen days from the 5th – 21st August 2016.

Facts about Brazil

- It is the largest country in South America and the fifth largest country in the world.
- The official language is Portuguese.
- The country shares a border with all South American countries, except Chile and Ecuador.
- The Amazon River flows through Brazil.
- Around 60% of the world's rainforests are here.
- Football is the country's most popular sport and Brazil have won the men's World Cup five times!

Celebrations

Brazil is well known for its carnivals, rainforests and energy. Its landscape ranges from white, powdery beaches to very dangerous waterfalls. It has a diverse ecosystem and a wide range of native animals, including toucans, macaws, howler monkeys, dolphins and sea turtles.

Many Festas, or festivals, occur throughout the year to celebrate different events. The most famous Brazilian carnival

is called 'Carnaval do Brasil' where people celebrate for days through the busy streets of Brazil's main cities.

The History of Medals

In Ancient Greece, Olympic winners were awarded a crown of laurel leaves that were allegedly picked from the sacred grove near the god Zeus' temple. Originally, only the winner was rewarded. It was in 1896 at the Athens Games that winners were given a silver medal and a diploma.

In the 1904 St.Louis Games, gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded for the first time and pinned to the athletes' chests. In the 1960 Rome Games, medals were hung around the competitors' necks on ribbon, a tradition that still happens in today's game.

The Olympic Torch

The Olympic torch represents peace, unity and friendship. During the run-up to the Opening Ceremony of the Games, the torch is passed from one bearer to another during a relay.

The Rio 2016 torch design symbolizes Brazil's main characteristics; its harmonious diversity, its contagious energy and its exuberant nature.

The Events

There are 42 sports taking place at this year's event, including everything from water polo to volleyball! Some of the

other sporting events include: athletics, handball, basketball, rhythmic gymnastics, boxing, volleyball, mountain bike cycling and wrestling.

Did you know?

At the Rio Games 2016 there will be:

- 42 different sports;
- 306 events;
- a total of 2,102 medals given out;
- more than 200 nations taking part.

Volunteers

During the games, there will be more than 140,000 volunteers helping to make sure everything runs smoothly. Everyone (from health professionals to torch bearers) is trained by 120 instructors ready for the event. They learn about excellent service, leadership and details about the different sports.

Training

The athletes all have to train in Brazil weeks before the Olympics actually start. This is called acclimatisation and is very important so that the competitors are used to the weather, heat and general environment.

The Olympics are held every 4 years. The next host country for the Games will be Tokyo, Japan.

Questions about Rio Olympics 2016

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. How many days does the Olympic Games last?

2. Name two things Brazil is known for.

3. Give two adjectives used to describe some of the features of Brazil?

4. Explain what was special about the laurel leaves in the winners' crowns during the Ancient Greek Olympics.

5. When were the first medals awarded?

6. Which of the 'Did you know?' facts surprise you the most and why?

7. Explain why you think the torch represents unity and friendship.

8. What does 'contagious energy' mean?

9. Which sport would you most like to see and why?

10. Explain what you think the volunteers do.

Questions about Rio Olympics 2016

Answers

1. How many days does the Olympic Games last?

19 days

2. Name two things Brazil is known for.

Any two of the following: festivals, rainforests and energy.

3. Give two adjectives used to describe some of the features of Brazil?

Any two of the following: beautiful, thunderous, white, powdery or dangerous.

4. Explain what was special about the laurel leaves in the winners' crowns during the Ancient Greek Olympics.

The leaves were picked from a sacred grove near the temple of Zeus.

5. When were the first medals awarded?

1896

6. Which of the 'Did you know?' facts surprise you the most and why?

Pupil's own response.

7. Explain why you think the torch represents unity and friendship.

There are hundreds of athletes from all around the world, so everyone needs to be friendly, respectful, and teams need to work together to get the best results.

8. What does 'contagious energy' mean?

That the energetic feeling passes on from one person to another so that everyone feels strong, positive and capable of winning.

9. Which sport would you most like to see and why?

Pupil's own response.

10. Explain what you think the volunteers do.

They volunteer to help the events run smoothly. They make sure all the right equipment is ready and that if people are injured they get medical help for them.

