

# The Beijing 2008 Olympic Games

The weather is heating up, and soon the excitement will be, too. After four long years, the time for the Summer Olympic Games has come again. The world's greatest athletes are making their last-minute travel arrangements, and you will be right there with them. Your destination: the Far East. Your journey to the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China, begins here!

This is an exciting time, not just for the athletes but also for all who are involved in this historical event. Imagine you are a member of the media, packing for your trip halfway across the world. It will be your job to take in the sights and sounds of the Olympic Games and report them to the people back home. What examples of Chinese culture will you experience? What great feats of athleticism will you witness? Who will be the latest in the long line of Olympic heroes?

Before you embark for Beijing, think about what you already know about China and the Olympic Games. Then consider what you hope to learn during your Olympic experience. Fill in the chart below. Here are some ideas to think about:

- foods of China
- customs of China
- history/geography of China
- events in the Olympic Games
- what is needed for the Olympic Games
- who competes in the Olympic Games

<b>What I Know About China</b>	<b>What I Hope to Learn About China</b>
<b>What I Know About the Olympic Games</b>	<b>What I Hope to Learn About the Olympic Games</b>



# Sports Categories

In total, there will be 28 sports featured in the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. Some of them have things in common with other sports. Some are completely unique. Write down every sport that fits into these categories.

• AQUATICS • ARCHERY • ATHLETICS • BADMINTON • BASEBALL • BASKETBALL • BOXING

• TABLE TENNIS • TAEKWONDO • TENNIS • TRIATHLON • VOLLEYBALL • WEIGHTLIFTING • WRESTLING

• CANOEING/KAYAKING • CYCLING • EQUESTRIAN • FENCING • FOOTBALL • GYMNASTICS • HANDBALL

Water Sports	Sports Played on a Court
Sports That Use a Ball	Sports That Use a Horse
Hand-to-Hand Combat Sports	Sports That Use a Weapon

• HOCKEY • MODERN PENTATHLON • ROWING • SAILING • SHOOTING • SOFTBALL

# Adding Oomph

The Olympic Games are filled with action and drama. Any writing that describes the intensity of an Olympic event needs to be intense, too. Use specific nouns and vivid verbs. Add adjectives and adverbs to spice up your descriptions. And use literary devices such as similes and onomatopoeia to give your story some extra oomph.

## Remember . . .

A **simile** is a type of comparison that uses the words *like* or *as*.

*Example: Uncle Jake is as skinny as a stalk of celery.*

**Onomatopoeia** is a word formed from the sound associated with what is named.

*Example: The rain pinged loudly on the shack's metal roof.*

**Directions:** Fill in the story below with words that match the intensity of a sprint for Olympic gold. The word(s) under each line tell you which part of speech or literary device to use.

The runner \_\_\_\_\_ his muscles as he awaits the sound of the gun to start the race.  
*verb*

He looks to his left at the other runners. In the \_\_\_\_\_ sun, he can see sweat dripping  
*adjective*

\_\_\_\_\_ down the arm of the \_\_\_\_\_ next to him. He squints his eyes  
*adverb* *noun*

and \_\_\_\_\_ at the lane in front of him. The countdown begins. The crowd grows  
*verb*

\_\_\_\_\_, and the noise in the \_\_\_\_\_ becomes deafening. Then  
*adjective* *noun*

“ \_\_\_\_\_ !”—the gun goes off and the race begins. He explodes out of the  
*onomatopoeia*

blocks \_\_\_\_\_ . The \_\_\_\_\_  
*simile* *noun*

he has been training for all his life has finally come.

Now that you have chosen just the right words and phrases, you will have your readers hooked. They'll want to know how the story ends! Finish it on the lines below.

---

---

---

---

---

# Answer Key

## Olympic Vocabulary (page 5)

1. venue
2. CE
3. disciplines
4. modern
5. truce
6. C
7. D
8. A
9. B
10. E

## The Ancient Olympic Games (page 6)

Ancient Olympic Games: A, E, F, H, I, K, N  
 2008 Beijing Olympic Games: B, C, D, G, J, L, M

## The Modern Games Challenge (page 9)

Part I: 4, 1, 5, 2, 3

Part II

1. a
2. c
3. a
4. b
5. c
6. c
7. a

## The Host Cities Challenge (page 11)

1. Munich, Germany
2. Athens, Paris, London, Los Angeles
- 3.

Host Countries Graph

	1	2	3	4	5
Australia					
Canada					
China					
France					
Germany					
Greece					
Italy					
Mexico					
United States					
U.S.S.R.					

4. 6; St. Louis, Los Angeles (twice), Mexico City, Montreal, Atlanta
5. 12; 1936–1948; because of World War II

## Dynasty Match (page 17)

1122 BCE–256 BCE: Zhou Dynasty  
 206 BCE–220 CE: Han Dynasty  
 618 CE–907 CE: Tang Dynasty  
 1368 CE–1644 CE: Ming Dynasty  
 1644 CE–1911 CE: Qing Dynasty

1. Ming Dynasty
2. Tang Dynasty
3. Zhou Dynasty
4. Qing Dynasty
5. Han Dynasty
6. Ming Dynasty
7. Tang Dynasty
8. Qing Dynasty
9. Han Dynasty
10. Tang Dynasty

## Making Silk (page 21)

- Step 1: eggs  
 Step 2: caterpillars  
 Step 3: eating  
 Step 4: cocoons  
 Step 5: liquid  
 Step 6: mile  
 Step 7: moths, destroying  
 Bonus: sericulture

## Scrambled Inventions (page 26)

1. silk
2. chopsticks
3. kite
4. paper
5. fireworks
6. compass
7. printing
8. gunpowder
9. seismograph
10. abacus

## Chinese Math Puzzles (page 27)

### Magic Square

4	9	2
3	5	7
8	1	6

### Yang Hui's Triangle

			1							
		1	1							
		1	2	1						
		1	3	3	1					
		1	4	6	4	1				
		1	5	10	10	5	1			
		1	6	15	20	15	6	1		
		1	7	21	35	35	21	7	1	
		1	8	28	56	70	56	28	8	1

## Bird's Nest and Water Cube (page 32)

1. b
2. a
3. c
4. a
5. a

## The Olympic Slogan (page 33)

Slogan: "One World, One Dream"

# Answer Key (cont.)

## The Flame of Beijing (page 34)

Answers may vary. Accept reasonable responses.

Green Olympics: A, F

People's Olympics: B, D, G

High-tech Olympics: C, E

## The Olympic Program Challenge (page 43)

- b
- a
- c
- c
- b
- c
- modern pentathlon, taekwondo, and wrestling

## Sports Categories (page 44)

Answer may vary. Accept reasonable and/or creative responses. For example, a student might write “gymnastics” under the category of “Sports That Use a Horse” (pommel horse).

**Water Sports:** aquatics, canoeing/kayaking, modern pentathlon, rowing, sailing, triathlon

**Court Sports:** badminton, basketball, handball, tennis, volleyball

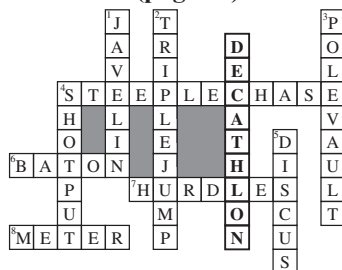
**Ball Sports:** baseball, basketball, football, handball, hockey, softball, table tennis, tennis, volleyball

**Horse Sports:** equestrian, modern pentathlon

**Hand-to-Hand Sports:** boxing, judo, taekwondo, wrestling

**Weapon Sports:** archery, fencing, modern pentathlon, shooting

## Track and Field (page 46)



**Challenge:** The 10 events of the decathlon are the 100-meter sprint, the long jump, the shot put, the high jump, the 400-meter race, the 110-meter hurdles, the discus throw, the pole vault, the javelin throw, and the 1500-meter race.

## Gymnastics Roll Call (page 47)

- C, vault
- D, parallel bars
- B, floor exercise
- A, balance beam
- E, pommel horse

Men's Events: horizontal bar, parallel bars, rings, pommel horse

Women's Events: balance beam, uneven bars

Both: floor exercise, vault, individual all-round, team competition

## Sun + Moon = All-Star (page 51)

- b
- a
- c

## Five-Day Forecast (page 58)

Monday: 95°F

Tuesday: 100°F

Wednesday: 88°F

Thursday: 77°F

Friday: 79°F

## The Metric System (page 59)

- 33 feet
- 110 yards
- 72 miles
- 121 pounds
- 46 feet by 5 feet

Challenge: Perimeter = 102 feet, Area = 230 square feet

## Adding Oomph (page 60)

Accept reasonable responses.

## Which One Doesn't Belong? (page 62)

- Barcelona
- boxing
- Paris
- yellow
- golf
- Texas
- 1944
- knife
- Melbourne
- sailing

### Internet Research Sites

For more information on the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, visit the following websites:

- [en.beijing2008.cn](http://en.beijing2008.cn)
- [www.usolympicteam.com](http://www.usolympicteam.com)
- [www.olympic.org](http://www.olympic.org)
- [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)