

## Rings, motto and flame

The Olympic symbols transmit the meaning and values of the Olympic movement in a simple manner recognised instantly by people around the world.

### Rings

The five rings represent the five continents of the world. They are interlaced to show the universality of the games in which athletes from many nations compete peacefully. The rings, coloured blue, black, red, yellow and green, are on a white background. These colours are the colours used on the flags of the nations of the world. (It is wrong to believe that each colour represents a continent.) The rings appear on the Olympic flag that is brought into the stadium at the Opening Ceremony.

### Motto

The motto is made up of three Latin words: *Citius, altius, fortius*; this means 'Faster, higher, stronger'. These three words were chosen to encourage athletes to give their best during the competition and to view their effort as victory enough. The most important thing is not to win, but to take part!

### Questions:

1. What do the five rings represent?
2. What are the five colours of the rings? Why were these colours selected?
3. What does *Citius, altius, fortius* mean? Why were these words chosen?
4. Environmental awareness was a focal point for the Athens Olympics. What steps are/could be taken in Beijing to protect the environment?

## Flame

The Olympic flame is one of the best-known features of the Olympic Games. In memory of its ancient origins, the flame is lit in ancient Olympia months before the opening of the Olympic Games. The torch is lit by the natural rays of the sun. The flame is then passed from torch to torch in relay from Greece to the host city. The torch enters the stadium on the day of the Opening Ceremony and the Olympic cauldron is lit, to be extinguished only at the Closing Ceremony.

Environmental awareness and sensitivity was a focal point for the preparation of the 2004 Olympics Games. The protection of the environment was considered crucial. As well as preserving the ancient sites, more than one million large bushes, 290 000 new trees and 11 million new shrubs were planted throughout Athens.



## Paralympics

The Paralympics evolved from a sports competition involving World War II veterans with spinal cord injuries which was held in Stoke Mandeville, England in 1948. In 1960, the first Olympics-style games for athletes with a disability was held in Rome, and is now called the Paralympics. Other disability groups were added in 1976 and the idea of merging together different disability groups for international sport competitions began. Since its inception, the number of participants has significantly increased. 400 athletes from 23 countries participated in Rome in 1960. This increased to 3806 athletes from 136 countries in the 2004 Athens Paralympics.

The Paralympics are held in the same year as the Olympic Games and have been held in the same venue since the Seoul 1988 Paralympic Games and the Albertville (France) 1992 Winter Paralympic Games. An agreement to ensure the city chosen to host the Olympic Games is obliged to also host the Paralympics was made between the IOC (International Olympic Committee) and the IPC (International Paralympic Committee) on 19 June, 2001. This will come into effect from the 2012 bid process onwards.

Fifteen sports on the Paralympic program are shared with the Olympic Games: archery, athletics, wheelchair basketball, cycling, equestrian events, wheelchair fencing, five-a-side football (soccer), seven-a-side football (soccer), judo, sailing, shooting, swimming, table tennis, wheelchair tennis and volleyball; plus bocce, goalball, powerlifting and wheelchair rugby are also included in the program.



### Questions:

1. How many athletes participated in the 1960 Rome Games?
2. How many athletes participated in the 2004 Athens Paralympics?
3. What agreement was made on 19 June, 2001?
4. How many sports are on both the Paralympic and Olympic programs? Name five.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# And the winner is...!

What were the top ten countries in the Olympic Games and in the Paralympic Games?

Olympic Games				Paralympic Games			
Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Total				Total			

### Analysing the results . . .

Which country won the greatest number of medals?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Which country won the most gold medals?  
 \_\_\_\_\_