

# 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.
- The official language is Portuguese.
- The country shares a border with all the South American countries, except Chile and Ecuador.
- The Amazon River flows through Brazil.
- Football is the country's most popular sport and Brazil have won the men's World Cup five times!

## Celebrations

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. It is also known for beautiful beaches, huge rainforests and wide range of animals.

## 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. In the 1904 St.Louis Games, gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded for the first time and pinned to the athletes' chests.

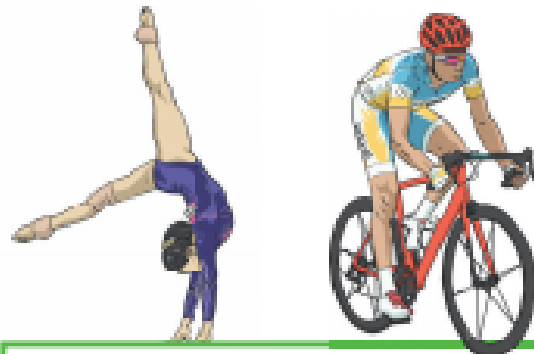
Finally, in the 1960 Rome Games, medals were hung around the competitors' necks on ribbon, a tradition that still happens in today's games.

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

## The Events

There are many different types of sport at the Olympics. Some of the 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

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

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

# Questions about Rio Olympics 2016

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. How many days does the Olympic Games last?

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2. Name two things Brazil is known for.

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3. Which sport is the country most famous for?

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4. When were the first medals awarded?

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

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6. Name two things that the torch represents.

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7. What does 'diversity' mean?

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

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9. Why do the volunteers need training?

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10. What might be a problem if athletes do not have the chance to train in the country they will be competing in?

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# 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.  
**Accept TWO of the following; festivals, Carnaval, beaches, rainforests or a range of animals.**
3. Which sport is the country most famous for?  
**Football**
4. When were the first medals awarded?  
**1904**
5. Which of the 'Did you know?' facts surprise you the most and why?  
**Pupil's own response.**
6. Name two things that the torch represents.  
**Accept TWO of the following; peace, unity or friendship.**
7. What does 'diversity' mean?  
**A wide range of people and culture.**
8. Which sport would you most like to see and why?  
**Pupil's own response.**
9. Why do the volunteers need training?  
**So that they know what equipment to get, what the rules of games are and how/ where to lead groups of people.**
10. What might be a problem if athletes do not have the chance to train in the country they will be competing in?  
**They might get ill if they are not used to training in such a hot country, or the conditions may affect their performance.**