

The 2018 Winter Olympics

Winter Olympic Facts

The Winter Olympics is an international contest of sports which are carried out on ice or snow.

- It takes place every four years.
- The first Winter Olympics took place in 1924, 94 years ago, in Chamonix, France, and only 16 nations took part.
- The last Winter Olympics was held in Sochi, Russia, in 2014.

The Venue

The 2018 Winter Olympics will be held in Pyeongchang which is in South Korea. The event will begin on 9th February with an opening ceremony and will end on 25th February with a closing ceremony. The contest will last for 17 days altogether.

Did You Know?

The Winter Olympic mascot is called Soohorang and is based on the white tiger, Korea's guardian animal. It represents a strong friend who protects the athletes and the spectators.

There will be 90 nations competing in 15 different winter sports. The 102 events will be held in three different cities around Pyeongchang.

259 sets of medals consisting of gold, silver and bronze have been made for the Winter Olympics!

The torch relay began in Greece, where the torch was lit on the 24th October 2017. It then travelled over land and sea and reached South Korea on 1st November. It will reach Pyeongchang on 9th February 2018, where it will remain lit until the closing ceremony ends.

The Winter Sports

The Winter Olympic sports are alpine skiing, biathlon, bobsleigh, cross country skiing, curling, figure skating, ice hockey, luge, Nordic combined, short-track speed skating, skeleton, ski jumping, snowboarding and speed skating.



Questions

1. Tick true or false for the following statements.

	True	False
France was where the first Winter Olympics were held.		
The 2014 Winter Olympics were held in Belarus.		
Sixteen nations took part in the first Winter Olympics.		
It is held every five years.		

2. When will the 2018 Winter Olympics begin? Tick one.

- 19th February 9th January
 9th February 10th February

3. Match the numbers with the statements.

15	nations taking part in the 2018 Winter Olympics
102	number of events altogether
17	number of winter sports
90	number of days the contest will last for

4. What animal is the 2018 Winter Olympics mascot based on? Tick one.

- white panda white tiger
 white tortoise white bear

5. Explain, in your own words, what the mascot symbolises for the 2018 Winter Olympics.

6. Find and copy one word which means to **keep safe from harm**.

7. On what date was the Olympic torch lit in 2017?

8. Which sport would you want to watch? Explain your reasons.

Answers

1. Tick true or false for the following statements.

	True	False
France was where the first Winter Olympics were held.	✓	
The 2014 Winter Olympics were held in Belarus.		✓
Sixteen nations took part in the first Winter Olympics.	✓	
It is held every five years.		✓

2. When will the 2018 Winter Olympics begin? Tick one.

- 19th February 9th January
 9th February 10th February

3. Match the numbers with the statements.

15	nations taking part in the 2018 Winter Olympics
102	number of events altogether
17	number of winter sports
90	number of days the contest will last for

4. What animal is the 2018 Winter Olympics mascot based on? Tick one.

- white panda white tiger
 white tortoise white bear

5. Explain, in your own words, what the mascot symbolises for the 2018 Winter Olympics.

Accept answers such as: The white tiger is the guardian animal of South Korea. It represents a strong friend who protects the athletes and the spectators.

6. Find and copy one word which means to keep safe from harm.

protects

7. On what date was the Olympic torch lit in 2017?

The Olympic torch was lit on the 24th October 2017.

8. Which sport would you want to watch? Explain your reasons.

Pupils' own response but must include reasons for choice of sport.

The 2018 Winter Olympics

Winter Olympic History

The Winter Olympics is an international contest of sports which are carried out on ice or snow. It has taken place every four years, since the first Winter Olympics which took place in 1924, 94 years ago, in Chamonix, France. Only 16 nations took part then. The last Winter Olympics was held in Sochi, Russia, in 2014. The 2022 Winter Olympics will be held in Beijing, China.

The Venue

The 2018 Winter Olympics will be held in Pyeongchang which is in South Korea. The event will begin on 9th February, lasting for 17 days, and end with an impressive closing ceremony on 25th February, in Hoenggye Olympic Park.

Over 50,000 athletes from 90 nations will compete in 15 different winter sports. Of the 102 events, the ice skating competitions will be held in the Gangneung area, while the alpine skiing will be in the Gyeonggi and Jeongseon regions.

259 sets of medals consisting of gold, silver and bronze have been made for the Winter Olympics!

The Winter Sports

The Winter Olympic sports are alpine skiing, biathlon, bobsleigh, cross country skiing, curling, figure skating, ice hockey, luge, Nordic combined, short track speed skating, skeleton, ski jumping, snowboarding and speed skating.

Did You Know?

The Winter Olympic mascot is called Soohorang and is based on the white tiger, Korea's guardian animal. It is representative of strength and protection, a symbol of reassurance for the competitors and the spectators.

Did You Know?

Seoul is the capital of South Korea. The city hosted the 1988 Olympic Games. The main language spoken is Korean but English is widely taught and spoken in schools. South Korea manufactures LG televisions, Hyundai cars and Samsung mobile phones, and is the home of Psy pop artist of the world famous hit 'Gangnam Style' in 2011.



Questions

1. What kind of environment are sports in the Winter Olympics carried out on?

2. Tick true or false for the following statements.

	True	False
The Winter Olympics began in 1924.		
Just 26 nations took part in the first Winter Olympics.		
France was the venue for the first Winter Olympics.		
The most recent Winter Olympics was in 2014.		
The previous Winter Olympics were held in Norway.		

3. Where will the next Winter Olympics take place?

4. Match the sentences.

There are 90
The competition will last for
The ice skating will be held

17 days.
nations taking part in the 2018 Winter Olympics.
in the Gangneung area.

5. Write an alternative word for the bold word in this sentence.

The 2018 Winter Olympics will end with an **impressive** closing ceremony on 25th February.

6. Explain why the mascot has been designed with strength and reassurance in mind.

7. Find and copy one word which means **made up of**.

8. What is happening in these places?

Hoenggye Olympic Park:

Jeongseon:

9. Summarise the main points in the Did You Know box at the end of the text.

10. Which fact or facts do you find most interesting? Explain your reasons.

Answers

1. What kind of environment are sports in the Winter Olympics carried out on?

Sports in the Winter Olympics are carried out on ice or snow.

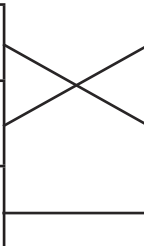
2. Tick true or false for the following statements.

	True	False
The Winter Olympics began in 1924.	✓	
Just 26 nations took part in the first Winter Olympics.		✓
France was the venue for the first Winter Olympics.	✓	
The most recent Winter Olympics was in 2014.	✓	
The previous Winter Olympics were held in Norway.		✓

3. Where will the next Winter Olympics take place?

The next Winter Olympics will take place in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

4. Match the sentences.

There are 90		17 days.
The competition will last for		nations taking part in the 2018 Winter Olympics.
The ice skating will be held		in the Gangneung area.

5. Write an alternative word for the bold word in this sentence.

The 2018 Winter Olympics will end with an **impressive** closing ceremony on 25th February.

Accept any of the following answers: thrilling, exciting, monumental, dramatic, extraordinary.

6. Explain why the mascot has been designed with strength and reassurance in mind.

The mascot has been designed with strength in mind to encourage the athletes and give them the strength to keep trying and do their best. The athletes and spectators need reassurance that they will be safe in South Korea and be protected during the Winter Olympics.

7. Find and copy one word which means made up of.

consisting

8. What is happening in these places?

Hoenggye Olympic Park:

There will be the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2018 Winter Olympics.

Jeongseon:

There will be the alpine skiing events.

9. Summarise the main points in the Did You Know box at the end of the text.

Accept the following summary of points:

- **South Korea has hosted the Olympic Games before;**
- **Korean and English are both spoken in the country;**
- **That South Korea manufactures a number of worldwide goods.**

10. Which fact or facts do you find most interesting? Explain your reasons.

Pupils' own responses but must include reasons for choice.

The 2018 Winter Olympics

Winter Olympic History

The Winter Olympics was established because it became necessary to have an international Olympic competition purely for sports which are competed on ice and snow, rather than competing alongside all sports in the Olympic Games. It also had implications for where these winter sports might need to compete. The first Winter Olympics took place 94 years ago in 1924, in Chamonix, France, with only 16 nations taking part.

During the Second World War, the Winter Olympics in 1940 and 1944 were postponed. The last Winter Olympics was held in Sochi, Russia, in 2014.

The Host Country

The 2018 Winter Olympics will be held in Pyeongchang, which is in South Korea. The event will begin on 9th February, lasting for 17 days, and end with a monumental closing ceremony on 25th February, in Hoenggye Olympic Park.

Over 50,000 athletes from 90 nations will compete in 15 different winter sports. Of the 102 events, the ice skating competitions will be held in the Gangneung area, while the alpine skiing will be in the Gyeonggi and Jeongseon regions.

The 2018 Winter Sports Medals

The medals have been designed based on Hangeul, which is the Korean alphabet and one of the most scientific writing systems in the world, with two 259 sets being made for the gold, silver and bronze winners of each event.

Seoul is the capital of South Korea. The city hosted the 1988 Olympic Games. The main language spoken is Korean, but English is also widely taught and spoken in schools. South Korea is the manufacturing centre of LG televisions, Hyundai cars and Samsung mobile phones, and is the home of Psy pop artist of the phenomenal hit 'Gangnam Style' in 2011.



Did You Know?

The Winter Olympic mascot is called Soohorang and is based on the white tiger, Korea's guardian animal. The design is representative of having strength and a challenging spirit and passion for endeavouring to win, and aims to be a trustworthy and protective friend of the competitors and the spectators.

Problems for the Winter Olympics

There have been different organisations calling for Russian athletes to be banned from entering the 2018 Winter Olympics. This is due to some Russian athletes being suspected of taking performance-enhancing drugs in the 2014 Winter Olympics. The International Olympic Committee will decide if Russia can compete. If they are not banned, Russia will be likely to face a huge fine.



Questions

1. Explain why you think it was necessary to have a separate Olympic competition for winter sports.

2. Explain why you think the Second World War meant the Winter Olympics in this period needed to be postponed.

3. Where were the 2014 Winter Olympics held? Tick one.

Chamonix, France

Vancouver, Canada

Sochi, Russia

Beijing, China

4. Which word here is closest to **monumental**? Tick one.

statuesque

memorable

commemorative

beautiful

5. Do you think the white tiger mascot is a suitable choice for the 2018 Winter Olympics?

Explain your reasons.

6. Write a fact for each of these figures in relation the 2018 Winter Olympics.

15: _____

50,000: _____

17: _____

102: _____

7. Rewrite this sentence, using different words for the ones which are in bold.

The white tiger mascot design **represents** a challenging spirit and passion for **endeavouring** to win.

8. Tick true or false for the following statements.

	True	False
Gangneung is the region where the alpine skiing will take place.		
Soohorang is the name given to the Winter Olympic mascot.		
250 sets of medals have been made for the Winter Olympics in 2018.		
Hanbok is the name of the scientific based alphabet used in South Korea.		

9. Summarise the main points in the box near the end of the text.

10. Discuss and explain your opinions regarding the final paragraph.

Answers

1. Explain why you think it was necessary to have a separate Olympic competition for winter sports.

Pupils' own response, such as: There would have been too many athletes and spectators to accommodate in one city; The winter sports would need snow and ice to compete and would need a different environment from other sports.

2. Explain why you think the Second World War meant the Winter Olympics in this period needed to be postponed.

Accept any of the following answers: The Second World War would have meant that the Winter Olympics needed to be postponed because so many countries were involved in the war; Athletes and spectators could not be guaranteed to be safe during the competition; There would have not been enough money to hold such an event; It would be too dangerous.

3. Where were the 2014 Winter Olympics held? Tick one.

Chamonix, France

Vancouver, Canada

Sochi, Russia

Beijing, China

4. Which word here is closest to **monumental**? Tick one.

statuesque

memorable

commemorative

beautiful

5. Do you think the white tiger mascot is a suitable choice for the 2018 Winter Olympics?

Explain your reasons.

Pupils' own response, such as: The white tiger was a good choice to be the mascot for the 2018 Winter Olympics because it represents having strength and a challenging spirit and passion for wanting to win. It is also a trustworthy and protective friend of the competitors and the spectators.

6. Write a fact for each of these figures in relation the 2018 Winter Olympics.

Accept the following answers:

15: Athletes will compete in 15 different winter sports during the 2018 Winter Olympics

50,000: At the 2018 Winter Olympics, there will be 50,000 athletes taking part.

17: The 2018 Winter Olympics will last for 17 days altogether.

102: There will be 102 events in the 2018 Winter Olympics.

7. Rewrite this sentence, using different words for the ones which are in bold.

The white tiger mascot design represents a challenging spirit and passion for endeavouring to win.

Answers may vary, such as: The white tiger mascot design symbolises a challenging spirit and passion for attempting to win; The white tiger mascot design demonstrates a challenging spirit and passion for striving to win.

8. Tick true or false for the following statements.

	True	False
Gangneung is the region where the alpine skiing will take place.		✓
Sooorang is the name given to the Winter Olympic mascot.	✓	
250 sets of medals have been made for the Winter Olympics in 2018.		✓
Hanbok is the name of the scientific based alphabet used in South Korea.		✓

9. Summarise the main points in the box near the end of the text.

The main points in the information in the box near the end of the text are:

- **South Korea has hosted an Olympic Games before;**
- **South Korea manufactures electrical goods and cars;**
- **Korean and English are spoken in South Korea.**

10. Discuss and explain your opinions regarding the final paragraph.

Pupils' own responses.