



# OLYMPICS SPECIAL >> TOKYO 2020

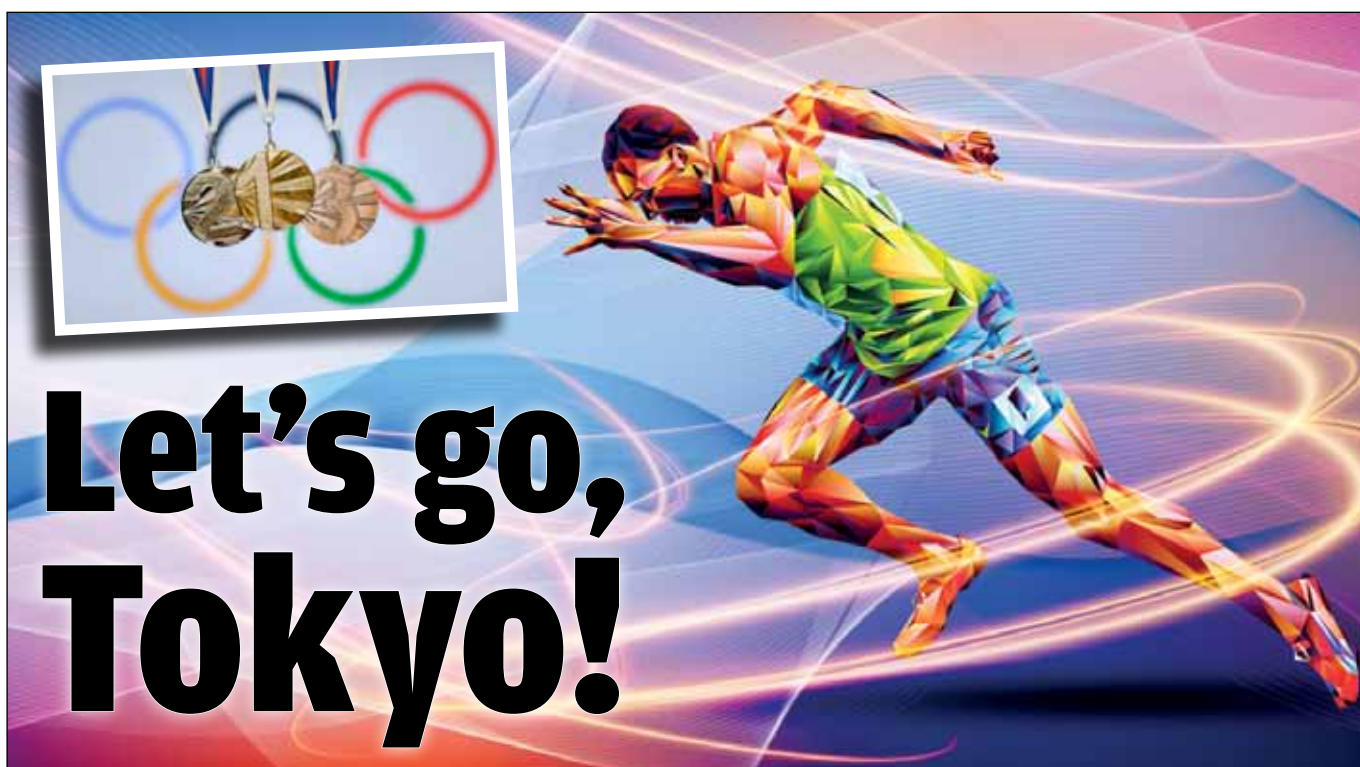
(Yes, we know it's 2021 – but that's what they are calling it)

## The **NEWS** Shed

Issue No.13

[www.literacyshedplus.com](http://www.literacyshedplus.com)

July 16-23, 2021



# Let's go, Tokyo!

### >> Strict rules amid coronavirus pandemic

**T**he world's greatest athletes must overcome huge obstacles to produce medal-winning performances as the Olympic Games are set to start in Tokyo.

The sporting extravaganza described as the greatest show on Earth will have a very different look and feel this year.

The Games open on Friday, July 23, for 17 days of exciting competition.

But it does so amid the coronavirus pandemic, with cases rising in Tokyo and the Japanese capital officially placed in a state of emergency.

The Games have already been delayed for a year because of the pandemic – but

will still be known as Tokyo 2020 – and now go ahead amid strict restrictions.

More than 11,000 athletes will compete and an estimated 79,000 media personnel, officials and staff will also be involved – but there will be no spectators allowed at the Tokyo venues.

Only at venues elsewhere in Japan will some fans be allowed to watch the action. Venues in the Fukushima, Miyagi and Shizuoka regions can let in spectators up to 50 per cent of their capacity.

That will include track cycling, for example, which is to be held in the Izu Velodrome in Shizuoka.

Athletes, media and officials must all follow strict rules. They have to have two negative Covid tests before arriving, and can only leave their accommodation

to go to the venues, meaning there is no opportunity for tourism.

Athletes will have tests every day, must socially distance and have been told they must leave Japan within 48 hours of their event finishing.

Allowing the Games to go ahead at all has angered many people in Japan, with a recent poll suggesting 80 per cent of people in the country wanted it cancelled.

Fans will now hope the lack of atmosphere in empty venues does not affect the athletes' performance or the spectacle for the millions of television viewers around the world.

**TOKYO**



**2020**

**The 12-year-old girl setting a record in Team GB: see page 2**

## OLYMPIC NEWS



### » Skateboarder is youngest GB member

**S**ky Brown will make history as Britain's youngest ever Olympian in Tokyo when she competes in the skateboarding event at the age of 12.

Skateboarding is one of six new sports at this year's Olympic Games, and Sky will compete in the women's park event.

She will be on familiar ground too – her mother, Mieko, is Japanese and Sky was born in Miyazaki.

Her father, Stuart, is English – which qualifies Sky for the British team – although he has lived in the United States since he was a teenager.

Sky now spends six months of the year in Japan and the other six months in the United States.

Tokyo will not be Sky's first experience of the big time. She first competed in the US Open at the age of eight in

### Fact SHED

#### New Olympic sports

- Surfing
- Karate
- Sport climbing
- Skateboarding
- Baseball
- Softball

(Baseball and softball were Olympic sports in the 1990s and 2000s, but were dropped after the 2008 Games)

**TOKYO**



**2020**

2017, and finished in the top 10 the following year.

She is not the only youngster in the British skateboarding squad either. Sky will be joined by 14-year-old Bombette Martin.

Bombette was born in New York and still lives there, but has an English father and spent much of her childhood in Birmingham. Her dad, Jon, was an amateur boxer and his nickname, Bomber, inspired her unusual first name.

### IN BRIEF

#### Absent friend

■ A familiar face will be missing from Team GB at the Tokyo Olympics.

Long-distance running legend Mo Farah has been a popular figure in the British team for the last three Olympics but failed to make the qualifying time for the 10,000 metres this time.

Farah won gold at 10,000 metres and 5,000 metres at London 2012 and Rio 2016 and has been concentrating on road racing for the last three years.

But after switching back to the track, he finished 19 seconds outside the 27min 28sec qualifying time at the British Championships in Manchester.

Sam Atkin and Marc Scott will represent Britain in the 10,000 metres.

#### Go girls!

■ For the first time at any Olympic Games, there will be more women than men in the British team. A total of 376 athletes make up Team GB, of which 201 are women and 175 men.

Games organisers say 11,238 athletes will take part in Tokyo – exactly the same number as in Rio five years ago – and that 49 per cent will be women.

#### And there's more...

■ Once the dust has settled on the Olympics, Tokyo will host the 16th Paralympic Games for disabled sportsmen and women from August 24 to September 5.

Some 4,400 competitors will take part in 540 events across 22 sports.

Badminton and taekwondo are new sports for this year's Games.

## The NEWS Shed

■ The News Shed is a digital newspaper, produced weekly to inform, entertain and educate pupils and to provide resources for their teachers.

■ It is among a whole host of educational resources at:  
[www.literacysshedplus.com](http://www.literacysshedplus.com)

■ For contact details please see the website.

## HOLIDAY TIME!

This is the final edition of *The News Shed* for this summer term.

We hope you all have a great summer holiday, and we will be back for the new school year in September.

The next edition will be available to download on September 3.

Keep on reading!





## OLYMPIC HEROES



### Jesse Owens

The American athlete was already famous before the 1936 Berlin Olympics for an extraordinary feat a year earlier.

Competing at an athletics meeting in Michigan, Owens set world records in the long jump, 220 yards sprint and 220 yards hurdles and equalled the world record in the 100 yards – all in the space of 45 minutes!

A year later he was in the American team for Berlin and at the centre of controversy as a black athlete competing when there was so much discrimination in Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany.

Nevertheless, Owens proved what

a great athlete he was by winning four gold medals. He won the 100 metres, long jump and 200 metres on three successive days and then, four days later, was part of the winning American team in the 4x100 metres relay.

His feat was celebrated around the world, with countries as far afield as Mongolia, Liberia and Equatorial Guinea releasing commemorative postage stamps featuring Owens' image.

Although he was known around the world as Jesse, that was not his real name. He was christened James Cleveland,

which became shortened to JC, which in turn morphed into Jesse.

**TOKYO**



**2020**

### Usain Bolt

The Jamaican sprinter became one of the world's most popular sportsmen of the 21st century with his string of record-breaking performances.

He completely dominated world sprinting, winning the 100 metres and 200 metres at three successive Games: Beijing 2008, London 2012 and Rio 2016. He added golds in the 4x100m relay at London and Rio, and has no fewer than 11 World Championships golds.

### Jackie Joyner-Kersey

The popular American is one of the greatest all-round athletes of the modern era.

Competing in the heptathlon as well as the long jump, she won three golds, a silver and two bronzes at four Games from Los Angeles 1984 to Atlanta 1996.

The heptathlon is a multi-discipline event comprising the 100 metres hurdles, high jump, shot put, 200 metres, long jump, javelin and 800 metres.

### Nadia Comaneci

As a tiny 14-year-old, the Romanian gymnast made sporting history at the 1976 Olympics in Montreal, Canada.

Gymnastic routines are scored by judges, and Comaneci became the first ever to be given a perfect 10 for her routine on the uneven bars. It was so unprecedented, the electronic scoreboard was not programmed to show a 10, so her score actually appeared as 1.00.

Incredibly, Comaneci went on to be given six more scores of 10 for various routines as she won three gold medals.

She went on to win two more golds in Moscow four years later, to go alongside her two World Championships gold medals and nine from the European Championships.

### Mark Spitz

The American swimmer was the undoubted star of the 1972 Munich Olympics, which were marred by a terrorist attack on the Israel team.

Spitz won seven gold medals and, amazingly, set a new world record with every one.

It took his Olympic tally to 11 medals, having won two golds, a silver and bronze in Mexico City four years earlier.

### Cathy Freeman

An indigenous Australian, Freeman was the poster girl of the 2000 Olympics in Sydney.

Specialising in the 400 metres, she had won silver in Atlanta four years earlier and already had two World Championships gold medals and three in the Commonwealth Games (and would later go on to earn a fourth).

She was chosen to light the Olympic torch at the opening ceremony and the build-up, as well as her record, meant she was under huge pressure to win in her home Olympics.

Freeman, wearing a revolutionary skin-tight full-length running suit, complete with hood, duly delivered by winning the final in 49.11sec.

### Steve Redgrave

The British rower won gold medals at a remarkable five successive Games.

Competing in a range of fours and pairs events, he won gold at Los Angeles 1984, Seoul 1988, Barcelona 1992, Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000.

He also won a bronze medal at the Seoul Games.

## OLYMPIC RECORDS

### 72 years, 281 days

Oscar Swahn's age when he competed for Sweden in the shooting at the 1920 Games in Antwerp, Belgium, making him the oldest Olympian. He also qualified for the 1924 Games in Paris, but withdrew without competing.

### 4

The United States has hosted the Summer Olympic Games more often than any other country: St Louis (1904), Los Angeles (1932 and 1984) and Atlanta (1996). The 2028 Olympics are also scheduled to return to Los Angeles, which will join London (1904, 1948 and 2012) as the only city to host the Games three times.

### 263kg

The world and Olympic record for a single lift, set by Iranian weightlifter Hossein Rezazadeh in the clean and jerk at Athens 2004. That is the equivalent of lifting up footballers Harry Kane, Cristiano Ronaldo and Zlatan Ibrahimovic at the same time.

## Fact SHED

Two Olympic records in women's athletics have now stood for more than 40 years. Nadezhda Olizarenko's 1min 53.43sec in the 800 metres and Ilona Slupianek's 22.41 metres in the shot put were set in Moscow in 1980.

Seven women's athletics Olympic records still stand from the 1988 Games in Seoul, South Korea – 33 years ago:

100m	Florence Griffith Joyner.....	10.62sec
200m	Florence Griffith Joyner.....	21.34sec
1500m	Paula Ivan.....	3min 53.96sec
4x400m	Soviet Union.....	3min 15.17sec
Long jump	Jackie Joyner-Kersey.....	7.40m
Discus	Martina Hellmann.....	72.30m
Heptathlon	Jackie Joyner-Kersey.....	7,291pts

TOKYO

2020

28

The record number of Olympic medals won by American swimmer Michael Phelps, 23 gold, three silver and two bronze. Some of those were in relay events, but he also holds the record for most medals in individual events with 16 (13 gold, two silver and one bronze).

### 18

Russian gymnast Larisa Latynina has won more Olympic medals than any other woman – nine gold, five silver and four bronze across the 1956, 1960 and 1964 Games.

### 11,238

The Rio Olympics in 2016 featured the most competitors, 6,179 men and a record 5,059 women.

### 10

Most appearances at the summer Olympics by one sportsman. Canadian show jumper Ian Millar appeared at every Games from 1972 until 2012, when he was 65, apart from 1980.

» Olympic men's 100m record progression since Jim Hines became the first to break 10 seconds

9.95 seconds

**Jim Hines** (USA)  
Mexico City, 1968

9.92 seconds

**Carl Lewis** (USA)  
Seoul, 1988

9.84 seconds

**Donovan Bailey**  
(Canada)  
Atlanta, 1996

9.69 seconds

**Usain Bolt** (Jamaica)  
Beijing, 2008

9.63 seconds

**Usain Bolt** (Jamaica)  
London, 2012



**OLYMPIC HISTORY**

The Panathenaic Stadium in Athens, main venue for the first modern Olympics in 1896

# The early years: who forgot the sailing boats?

» De Coubertin's dream comes true

**T**he first modern Olympics were staged in Athens in 1896 after French teacher and historian Pierre de Coubertin founded the International Olympic Committee.

They were a revival of the contests in Ancient Greece – but were very different to the huge sporting extravaganza we know today.

Only 14 countries took part – all European nations, apart from the United States – and there were only 12 sports, although the sailing had to be scrapped because everybody forgot to provide the boats!

There were only around 240 competitors in total, and all were men – women took part for the first time four years later in Paris. Around 65 per cent of the ath-

letes at the first modern Games in Athens were from Greece itself.

As the Olympics developed, they began to include some sports and competitions that would seem strange at this year's Games.

Cricket was staged in Paris in 1900, when a touring team of club cricketers known as the Devon and Somerset Wanderers beat a team made up from two clubs in Paris. Croquet and tug-of-war were also in the schedule.

Cultural events were also a part of the Olympics in the early years. Medals were awarded in subjects such as painting, music and literature, while the 1928 Games in Amsterdam even featured an architecture competition.

This year's Olympics are the second to be hosted by Tokyo. The Japanese capital was awarded the 1940 Games but these were cancelled because of World War Two, and the city eventually became the host in 1964.

**TOKYO**



**2020**

## Fact SHED

The Summer Olympics have been held every four years since 1896, with some exceptions: the Berlin Games in 1916 were cancelled because of World War One; Tokyo in 1940 and London in 1944 were scrapped because of World War Two; and now Tokyo 2020 has been delayed until 2021 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

### Host cities

■ 1896	Athens	Greece
■ 1900	Paris	France
■ 1904	St Louis	USA
■ 1908	London	England
■ 1912	Stockholm	Sweden
■ 1920	Antwerp	Belgium
■ 1924	Paris	France
■ 1928	Amsterdam	Netherlands
■ 1932	Los Angeles	USA
■ 1936	Berlin	Germany
■ 1948	London	England
■ 1952	Helsinki	Finland
■ 1956	Melbourne	Australia
■ 1960	Rome	Italy
■ 1964	Tokyo	Japan
■ 1968	Mexico City	Mexico
■ 1972	Munich	West Germany
■ 1976	Montreal	Canada
■ 1980	Moscow	Soviet Union
■ 1984	Los Angeles	USA
■ 1988	Seoul	South Korea
■ 1992	Barcelona	Spain
■ 1996	Atlanta	USA
■ 2000	Sydney	Australia
■ 2004	Athens	Greece
■ 2008	Beijing	China
■ 2012	London	England
■ 2016	Rio de Janeiro	Brazil
■ 2021	Tokyo	Japan
■ 2024	Paris	France
■ 2028	Los Angeles	USA

## OLYMPIC SCHEDULE WHAT'S HAPPENING EACH DAY

	Wed July 21	Thu July 22	Fri July 23	Sat July 24	Sun July 25	Mon July 26	Tues July 27	Wed July 28	Thu July 29	Fri July 30	Sat July 31	Sun Aug 1	Mon Aug 2	Tues Aug 3	Wed Aug 4	Thu Aug 5	Fri Aug 6	Sat Aug 7	Sun Aug 8
Opening ceremony																			
3x3 Basketball																			
Archery																			
Artistic gymnastics																			
Artistic swimming																			
Athletics																			
Badminton																			
Baseball/Softball																			
Basketball																			
Beach volleyball																			
Boxing																			
Canoe slalom																			
Canoe sprint																			
Cycling BMX freestyle																			
Cycling BMX racing																			
Cycling mountain bike																			
Cycling road																			
Cycling track																			
Diving																			
Equestrian																			
Fencing																			
Football																			
Golf																			
Handball																			
Hockey																			
Judo																			
Karate																			
Marathon swimming																			
Modern pentathlon																			
Rhythmic gymnastics																			
Rowing																			
Rugby																			
Sailing																			
Shooting																			
Skateboarding																			
Sport climbing																			
Surfing																			
Swimming																			
Table tennis																			
Taekwondo																			
Tennis																			
Trampoline gymnastics																			
Triathlon																			
Volleyball																			
Water polo																			
Weightlifting																			
Wrestling																			
Closing ceremony																			

Key  = ceremony  = competition day R = reserve day  = competition & medals day