



# I Want To Be In The OLYMPICS!

It's time again for the Olympic Games! The XXIX Olympiad begins in Beijing, China on 08/08/08. Here are some links related to this amazing international celebration.



US Sprinter Tyson Gay set a world record in the Olympic Trials.

## 1) What's the weather like — right now— in Beijing, China where the Olympics will take place?

Can't go to China? You can online! Visit <http://en.beijing2008.cn/> and you can find the current weather, time and other facts about the summer games. You can download your own screensaver or wallpaper, or see photos of some of the athletes who will be participating, like US Sprinter Tyson Gay, at <http://photo.beijing2008.cn/en>.

## 2) Where were the first Olympics?

At <http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/greeks/games/olympics.htm> you learn that Athens, Greece was the host to the first *modern* Olympic Summer Games, back in 1896. The very first games were held in ancient Greece in 776 B.C. to honor the Greek gods. (This site has advertising.)

## 3) What do the five interlocking rings mean?

According to <http://www.janecky.com/olympics/rings.html> the five rings represent the five major regions of the world: Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania.



## 4) How do Olympic torches work, travel and stay lit?

At <http://entertainment.howstuffworks.com/olympic-torch6.htm> you learn that the torch symbolizes spirit, knowledge and life. It is delivered from Greece to the host country, and must stay lit the entire way! It all starts in Olympia (Greece), where a flame is ignited by the sunrays reflected off a curved mirror. Women dressed in robes, resembling those worn in ancient times light the flame and pass the torch to the first runner in an Olympic Torch relay that ends in the host country (this year, China). (This site has advertising.)

## 5) Which athlete won the most gold medals?

See <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2002/09/22/LV47585.DTL> and you'll learn that USA speed skater Eric Heiden won five individual (not team) gold medals during the 1980 Winter Olympic Games. His record stands today. Today, Eric, or Dr. Heiden, is an orthopedic surgeon who lives in California.



## 6) Is there a list of all Olympic medalists from over the years?

Yes. See <http://www.olympicgameswinners.com/#>, and you can research all the medal winners of each Olympiad.

## 7) True or False: Tug-of-War used to be an Olympic Sport.

True. Visit [http://www.olympic.org/uk/sports/index\\_uk.asp](http://www.olympic.org/uk/sports/index_uk.asp) where you can see a list of all of the games that are played at the Olympics, and which ones were phased out, like the tug-of-war. If you have the time, keep poking around on this site. There's a lot to explore.



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