The Olympic Games

1 Pre-reading
Do this quiz about the Olympic Games. Then check your answers by doing an Internet search for The Olympic Games. You can use these websites to help you:
www.athensguide.org/olympics-history.html
gresearchnews.gatech.edu/reshor/th-win96/timeline.htm
www.enchantedlearning.com/olympics/1
1 The five rings of the Olympic Games represent five … .
a continents
b days of competition
c sports
2 The first Olympic Games took place in Olympia, Greece, in … .
a 776 B.C.
b A.D. 79
c A.D. 1896
3 The only event in the first Olympic Games was … .
a fighting
b swimming
c running
4 During the Olympic Games in ancient Greece, competitors won … .
a a crown made of olive leaves
b gold, silver, and bronze medals
c money
5 The “sacred truce” allowed competitors to … .
a give thanks to the gods
b prepare for the games
c travel to the games safely
6 The Olympic torch travels … .
a around the world
b from Greece
c from the last host country
7 The Olympic Games take place every … .
a two years
b three years
c four years
8 The number of sports included in the Olympic Games today is around … .
a twenty-six
b seventy
c two hundred

2 Vocabulary
Match the words with the pictures of different Olympic sports. Then check your answers online. You can use this website to help you:
www.london2012.com/sport
a athletics
b baseball
c gymnastics
d road cycling
e swimming
f taekwondo
g tennis
3 Reading

Do an Internet search for *The Olympics®* and find out when these important Olympic Games® events happened. You can use these websites to help you:

www.nostos.com/olympics/#Highlightsofthe
ModernGames
www.sports-reference.com/olympics/athletes/bl/
fanny-blankers-koen-1.html
www.london2012.com/cycling-bmx
www.infoplease.com/spot/olympicstimeline.html
www.athensmarathon.com/marathon/history.html
www.olympic.org/sydney-2000-summer-olympics

1 Baseball became an Olympic® sport. _______1992______
2 Road cycling was introduced. ______________
3 A Dutch woman, Fanny Blankers-Koen, became the first woman to win four gold medals. ____________
4 A Romanian, Nadia Comaneci, became the first person to score a perfect 10 in Olympic® gymnastics. ____________
5 Softball, a women-only sport, was introduced. ______________
6 Tennis returned as an Olympic® sport. ______________
7 The first modern Olympics® took place in Athens. ____________
8 The distance of a marathon became longer. ______________
9 The Olympic Games® became open to women. ____________
10 Taekwondo was entered as an Olympic® sport. ____________

4 Project

Choose one of the Olympic® events in Exercise 2, or another you are particularly interested in. Do an Internet search to research the sport and prepare a fact file about it to present to the class. Use the following questions to help you:

- How long has it been an Olympic® sport?
- Has the sport changed in any way during that time? (e.g. becoming longer, shorter, admitting women, the introduction of new rules, etc.)
- Have there been any famous Olympics® for this event? (because of the absence/presence of certain athletes, disqualification of athletes, etc.)
- Which country has won the most medals in this event?
- Which competitors have won the most medals in this event?
- What other information do you think is interesting or important about this event?

You can use these websites to help you:

www.olympic.org
www.london2012.com/sport