

City of Vancouver

Location: A coastal city located in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia, Canada.

Population: just over 578,000

Canada

Continent: North America

Area: 9,984,670 sq. km (3,854,085 sq. miles)

Population: 33,971,000 (estimated in 2010)

Border Countries: United States of America and the state of Alaska

Official Language: English and French

Religion: Christianity

Capital City: Ottawa

Largest City: Toronto

Major Cities: Montreal, Vancouver, Ottawa-Gatineau, Calgary

Government Type: Federal Parliamentary Democracy & Constitutional Monarchy



Olympics

The original Olympic Games were played in Olympia, Greece, in 776 B.C. The first modern Olympic Games were held in Athens, Greece, in 1896. The Winter Olympic Games began in 1924 in Chamonix, France.

The Olympics are filled with tradition, like the popular parade of nations and arrival of the Olympic torch during the Opening Ceremony. The Olympic flag and oath were introduced in 1920. It has also become a tradition for each Olympic Games to have their own mascot(s). The Olympic mascot is a character, usually an animal native to the area or sometimes human figures, who represents the cultural heritage of the country/city where the Olympic Games are being held. The Olympic Games have had a mascot since the 1968 Winter Olympics in Grenoble, France. The 2010 mascots are Miga, a mythical sea bear;



Quatchi, a sasquatch; and Mukmuk, a Vancouver Island marmot (see pictures). Tradition has held that the Games should be about sportsmanship and peace, and the Olympic Creed says that the most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win, but to take part.



The 2010 Winter Olympic Games will consist of 86 events in the following 15 disciplines: Alpine Skiing, Biathlon, Bobsleigh, Cross-Country Skiing, Curling, Figure Skating, Freestyle Skiing, Ice Hockey, Luge, Nordic Combined, Short Track Speed Skating, Skeleton, Ski Jumping, Snowboard, and Speed Skating.

Olympic Flag

The Olympic flag is composed of five interlocking rings colored blue, yellow, black, green, and red on a white field. The five rings represent the five continents of the world: America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia. The colors were chosen because every nation has at least one of these colors represented on their national flag.



Olympic Creed

The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well.

Olympic Motto

Citius, Altius, Fortius a Latin expression meaning: Faster, Higher, Stronger

The Olympic Motto was featured in the emblem for the 1924 Games in Los Angeles.



Olympic Oath

This oath is taken at the Opening Ceremonies, by one athlete and one judge, while holding an edge of the Olympic Flag.

Athlete: *In the name of all the competitors I promise that we shall take part in these Olympic Games, respecting and abiding by the rules which govern them, committing ourselves to a sport without doping and without drugs, in the true spirit of sportsmanship, for the glory of sport and the honour of our teams.*

Judge: *In the name of all the judges and officials, I promise that we shall officiate in these Olympic Games with complete impartiality, respecting and abiding by the rules which govern them in the true spirit of sportsmanship.*