

The Olympic Games bring together thousands of the world's finest athletes to compete against each other in select sporting events. For the Summer Olympic Games almost every nation in the world sends teams of selected athletes to compete. The Winter Games have far fewer countries and athletes competing. Several million people attend the games and more than 2 billion watch them on television. Fostering the ideal of a "sound mind in a sound body" and promoting friendship among nations are the purposes of the Olympic Games.

The Winter Olympics are held every four years and alternate every 2 with the Summer Games. In 2010 the Winter Games will be held in Vancouver, Canada while the next Summer Olympics will be in 2012 in London, England. The Winter Olympics are much smaller in scale than the Summer Games. In Vancouver there will be 86 medal events. This is 2 more than the 2006 Torino Games. The new event is men's and women's ski cross. Some of the other sports that are included in the Winter Olympics are Skiing, Bobsled, Figure Skating, Hockey, Snowboarding and Speed Skating.

Our country, the United States of America, will send approximately 250 athletes to compete in the 2010 Olympic Games. Five-time Olympic medalist, Apolo Anton Ohno, needs two medals in Vancouver to pass Bonnie Blair as the most decorated American at the Winter Games. Ohno has won every national title in short track since 2001. This will be his third Olympic Games.

Questions relating to the above paragraphs:

1. What kind of events are at the Olympic Games? (sporting events)
2. Who competes in the Olympic Games? (athletes from many diff. countries)
3. One of the purposes of the Olympic Games is to promote what among nations? (friendship)
4. How often are the Winter Olympic Games held? (every 4 years)
5. Where are the Games being held this year? (Vancouver, Canada)
6. How many medal events will be at the 2010 Games? (86)
7. What is the new event at the Vancouver Games? (men's & women's ski cross)
8. Name two other sporting events at the Winter Olympic Games? (Skiing, Bobsled, Figure Skating, etc.)
9. What country will send about 250 athletes to the Games? (USA)
10. Which American athlete needs 2 more medals to be the most decorated American Winter Athlete? (Apolo Anton Ohno)
11. What sport does Ohno compete in? (Short Track)