

Winter Olympics Trivia

This activity includes 30 questions on the Winter Olympics. The questions are accompanied by the answers and additional information for discussion.

There are several activity possibilities:

- For a group activity, read and discuss the trivia questions and answers. Also print the [picture pages](#) to pass around during the activity.
- For independent activities, print and distribute fill-in-the-blank copies of the [questions without the answers](#). Also available are the [questions with the answers](#).
- Post one or more of the trivia questions on your bulletin board every day or so throughout the month using this [special sign](#).



Trivia Questions and Answers

1. What country hosted the first Winter Olympics, in 1924?

Answer: France. The Chamonix events featured 260 athletes from 16 countries.

2. American gold medalists in what sport include Kristi Yamaguchi and Peggy Fleming?

Answer: Figure skating. The United States has won 16 gold medals and 54 medals total in the sport.

3. The 1988 bobsled team from what nation captivated global audiences and inspired the film *Cool Runnings*?

Answer: Jamaica. Their two-man team finished 30th, and their four-man team crashed and did not finish, but collectively they won the world's hearts.

4. In what country is Cortina d'Ampezzo, the site of the 1956 games?

Answer: Italy. The town will host the Games once again in 2026.

5. Which of these nations has *not* hosted an Olympic Winter Games: Norway, Sweden, or China?

Answer: Sweden. Norway hosted the 1952 and 1994 Games, while China played host in 2022.

6. What was the first Olympic sport open to women?

Answer: Figure skating. The second was Alpine skiing, which opened to women in 1936.

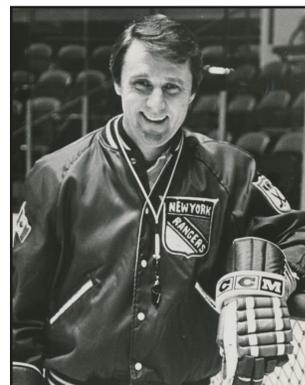


7. What type of weather presented difficulties during the second Winter Olympics, held in 1928 in St. Moritz, Switzerland?

Answer: Warm weather. Temperatures reached 75°F, causing many events to be rescheduled and one canceled.

8. The movie *Miracle* covers a 1980 Olympic story in which sport?

Answer: Ice hockey. The 2004 flick tells the story of coach Herb Brooks' miraculous win over the strong Soviet team.



9. What sport is Olympic great Shaun White known for competing in?

Answer: Snowboarding. With his trademark red hair, he became known as the Olympics' "Flying Tomato."

10. Which figure skater of the 1970s was known as "America's Sweetheart" and inspired a pixie haircut craze?

Answer: Dorothy Hamill. Her trademark skating move was a spin called the Hamill Camel.

11. What two women were involved in one of figure skating's biggest scandals, when one was attacked by the husband of her rival?

Answer: Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan. Kerrigan recovered from her injury and won silver, while Harding was banned from the sport.

12. What winter Olympic sport includes events like downhill, slalom, and super-G?

Answer: Skiing. One famous Olympic skier is Austrian Hermann Maier, who bounced back from a 1998 ski crash to win two gold medals just a few days later.

13. During 2018's Pyeongchang games, which two usually separated nations marched together and even played a unified women's hockey game?

Answer: North and South Korea. The nations flew flags depicting a unified Korea during the Games.



14. Which Winter Olympic sport involves teams of two or four people navigating a steeply twisting course in a gravity-powered sled?

Answer: Bobsled. It was in this sport that Vonetta Flowers became the first Black athlete to win Winter Olympic gold.

15. Which of these is *not* a winter Olympic sport: curling, biathlon, or cricket?

Answer: Cricket. Biathlon has been part of the Games since 1960, while curling went Olympic way back in 1924.

16. Originating in Switzerland, what "spooky" name is given to the face-down version of luge?

Answer: Skeleton. Skeleton was born in the 1880s and officially named in 1892, inspired by the sport's metal-framed sled.

17. Why were the 1944 Olympic Winter Games not played?

Answer: World War II. Postponed until 1956, the seventh winter Olympics were played in Cortina d'Ampezzo.

18. For the first time in Olympic history, the 1956 Games were broadcast over what medium?

Answer: Live television. An Italian network was the first to make this groundbreaking move.

19. A 2015 biopic tells the tale of Eddie Edwards, a British ski jumper known better by what nickname?

Answer: Eddie the Eagle. He is remembered as a lovable underdog whose 1988 Olympic run won the hearts of many.



20. Usually associated with cartoon characters and theme parks, what media mogul managed the 1960 Olympic Opening Ceremony in California?

Answer: Walt Disney. These games also saw the debut of South Africa at the Winter Olympics.

21. What Olympic symbol is used to light a cauldron to open the Games?

Answer: The torch. In 1964, for the first time in Winter Olympics history, the torch was lit in Olympia, Greece, and was carried via relay to the Games' location.



22. What is the name of the area built to house Olympic athletes during the competition?

Answer: The Olympic Village. In 1968, seven separate Olympic Villages were built to house contestants.

23. The 1984 Winter Games saw a record 49 countries compete in which city, once part of Yugoslavia but now in Bosnia and Herzegovina?

Answer: Sarajevo. The IOC introduced incentives for smaller countries to participate that year.

24. What is the IOC?

Answer: The International Olympic Committee. The organization was formed in 1894 to oversee the Olympic Games.

25. True or false? Professional athletes are banned from competing in the Olympics today.

Answer: False. While the Games were originally exclusively for amateur athletes, the IOC changed the rules in 1986 to allow professionals.

26. Heading into the 2026 Games, what country holds the all-time gold medal record for the Winter Olympics?

Answer: Norway. The nation has a total of 148, with the United States following in second place with 114.

27. What soul patch–sporting speed skater won Olympic gold at the 2002 Salt Lake City games?

Answer: Apolo Ohno. He has since appeared on *Dancing with the Stars* and a few other TV programs.

28. How many times has the United States hosted the Winter Olympics?

Answer: Four. The hosting cities were Lake Placid (twice), Squaw Valley, and Salt Lake City.

29. How many years separate the Winter Olympics from the Summer Olympics?

Answer: Two. The two events used to be held in the same year but began alternating after the 1992 Olympics.

30. Which Utah city hosted the Games in February 2002?

Answer: Salt Lake City. This cold-weather destination is scheduled to host the 2034 Games.



1924 Winter Olympics



Kristi Yamaguchi



Herb Brooks



Bobsled



Eddie the Eagle



Olympic torch

Winter Olympics Trivia

(Questions Only)

1. What country hosted the first Winter Olympics, in 1924?

Answer: _____

2. American gold medalists in what sport include Kristi Yamaguchi and Peggy Fleming?

Answer: _____

3. The 1988 bobsled team from what nation captivated global audiences and inspired the film *Cool Runnings*?

Answer: _____

4. In what country is Cortina d'Ampezzo, the site of the 1956 games?

Answer: _____

5. Which of these nations has *not* hosted an Olympic Winter Games: Norway, Sweden, or China?

Answer: _____

6. What was the first Olympic sport open to women?

Answer: _____

7. What type of weather presented difficulties during the second Winter Olympics, held in 1928 in St. Moritz, Switzerland?

Answer: _____

8. The movie *Miracle* covers a 1980 Olympic story in which sport?

Answer: _____

9. What sport is Olympic great Shaun White known for competing in?

Answer: _____

10. Which figure skater of the 1970s was known as "America's Sweetheart" and inspired a pixie haircut craze?

Answer: _____

11. What two women were involved in one of figure skating's biggest scandals, when one was attacked by the husband of her rival?

Answer: _____

12. What winter Olympic sport includes events like downhill, slalom, and super-G?
Answer: _____
13. During 2018's Pyeongchang games, which two usually separated nations marched together and even played a unified women's hockey game?
Answer: _____
14. Which Winter Olympic sport involves teams of two or four people navigating a steeply twisting course in a gravity-powered sled?
Answer: _____
15. Which of these is *not* a winter Olympic sport: curling, biathlon, or cricket?
Answer: _____
16. Originating in Switzerland, what "spooky" name is given to the face-down version of luge?
Answer: _____
17. Why were the 1944 Olympic Winter Games not played?
Answer: _____
18. For the first time in Olympic history, the 1956 Games were broadcast over what medium?
Answer: _____
19. A 2015 biopic tells the tale of Eddie Edwards, a British ski jumper known better by what nickname?
Answer: _____
20. Usually associated with cartoon characters and theme parks, what media mogul managed the 1960 Olympic Opening Ceremony in California?
Answer: _____
21. What Olympic symbol is used to light a cauldron to open the Games?
Answer: _____
22. What is the name of the area built to house Olympic athletes during the competition?
Answer: _____

23. The 1984 Winter Games saw a record 49 countries compete in which city, once part of Yugoslavia but now in Bosnia and Herzegovina?

Answer: _____

24. What is the IOC?

Answer: _____

25. True or false? Professional athletes are banned from competing in the Olympics today.

Answer: _____

26. Heading into the 2026 Games, what country holds the all-time gold medal record for the Winter Olympics?

Answer: _____

27. What soul patch-sporting speed skater won Olympic gold at the 2002 Salt Lake City games?

Answer: _____

28. How many times has the United States hosted the Winter Olympics?

Answer: _____

29. How many years separate the Winter Olympics from the Summer Olympics?

Answer: _____

30. Which Utah city hosted the Games in February 2002?

Answer: _____

Winter Olympics Trivia

(Questions with Answers)

1. What country hosted the first Winter Olympics, in 1924?

Answer: France. The Chamonix events featured 260 athletes from 16 countries.

2. American gold medalists in what sport include Kristi Yamaguchi and Peggy Fleming?

Answer: Figure skating. The United States has won 16 gold medals and 54 medals total in the sport.

3. The 1988 bobsled team from what nation captivated global audiences and inspired the film *Cool Runnings*?

Answer: Jamaica. Their two-man team finished 30th, and their four-man team crashed and did not finish, but collectively they won the world's hearts.

4. In what country is Cortina d'Ampezzo, the site of the 1956 games?

Answer: Italy. The town will host the Games once again in 2026.

5. Which of these nations has *not* hosted an Olympic Winter Games: Norway, Sweden, or China?

Answer: Sweden. Norway hosted the 1952 and 1994 Games, while China played host in 2022.

6. What was the first Olympic sport open to women?

Answer: Figure skating. The second was Alpine skiing, which opened to women in 1936.

7. What type of weather presented difficulties during the second Winter Olympics, held in 1928 in St. Moritz, Switzerland?

Answer: Warm weather. Temperatures reached 75°F, causing many events to be rescheduled and one canceled.

8. The movie *Miracle* covers a 1980 Olympic story in which sport?

Answer: Ice hockey. The 2004 flick tells the story of coach Herb Brooks' miraculous win over the strong Soviet team.

9. What sport is Olympic great Shaun White known for competing in?
Answer: Snowboarding. With his trademark red hair, he became known as the Olympics' "Flying Tomato."
10. Which figure skater of the 1970s was known as "America's Sweetheart" and inspired a pixie haircut craze?
Answer: Dorothy Hamill. Her trademark skating move was a spin called the Hamill Camel.
11. What two women were involved in one of figure skating's biggest scandals, when one was attacked by the husband of her rival?
Answer: Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan. Kerrigan recovered from her injury and won silver, while Harding was banned from the sport.
12. What winter Olympic sport includes events like downhill, slalom, and super-G?
Answer: Skiing. One famous Olympic skier is Austrian Hermann Maier, who bounced back from a 1998 ski crash to win two gold medals just a few days later.
13. During 2018's Pyeongchang games, which two usually separated nations marched together and even played a unified women's hockey game?
Answer: North and South Korea. The nations flew flags depicting a unified Korea during the Games.
14. Which Winter Olympic sport involves teams of two or four people navigating a steeply twisting course in a gravity-powered sled?
Answer: Bobsled. It was in this sport that Vonetta Flowers became the first Black athlete to win Winter Olympic gold.
15. Which of these is *not* a winter Olympic sport: curling, biathlon, or cricket?
Answer: Cricket. Biathlon has been part of the Games since 1960, while curling went Olympic way back in 1924.
16. Originating in Switzerland, what "spooky" name is given to the face-down version of luge?
Answer: Skeleton. Skeleton was born in the 1880s and officially named in 1892, inspired by the sport's metal-framed sled.

17. Why were the 1944 Olympic Winter Games not played?

Answer: World War II. Postponed until 1956, the seventh winter Olympics were played in Cortina d'Ampezzo.

18. For the first time in Olympic history, the 1956 Games were broadcast over what medium?

Answer: Live television. An Italian network was the first to make this groundbreaking move.

19. A 2015 biopic tells the tale of Eddie Edwards, a British ski jumper known better by what nickname?

Answer: Eddie the Eagle. He is remembered as a lovable underdog whose 1988 Olympic run won the hearts of many.

20. Usually associated with cartoon characters and theme parks, what media mogul managed the 1960 Olympic Opening Ceremony in California?

Answer: Walt Disney. These games also saw the debut of South Africa at the Winter Olympics.

21. What Olympic symbol is used to light a cauldron to open the Games?

Answer: The torch. In 1964, for the first time in Winter Olympics history, the torch was lit in Olympia, Greece, and was carried via relay to the Games' location.

22. What is the name of the area built to house Olympic athletes during the competition?

Answer: The Olympic Village. In 1968, seven separate Olympic Villages were built to house contestants.

23. The 1984 Winter Games saw a record 49 countries compete in which city, once part of Yugoslavia but now in Bosnia and Herzegovina?

Answer: Sarajevo. The IOC introduced incentives for smaller countries to participate that year.

24. What is the IOC?

Answer: The International Olympic Committee. The organization was formed in 1894 to oversee the Olympic Games.

25. True or false? Professional athletes are banned from competing in the Olympics today.

Answer: False. While the Games were originally exclusively for amateur athletes, the IOC changed the rules in 1986 to allow professionals.

26. Heading into the 2026 Games, what country holds the all-time gold medal record for the Winter Olympics?

Answer: Norway. The nation has a total of 148, with the United States following in second place with 114.

27. What soul patch-sporting speed skater won Olympic gold at the 2002 Salt Lake City games?

Answer: Apolo Ohno. He has since appeared on *Dancing with the Stars* and a few other TV programs.

28. How many times has the United States hosted the Winter Olympics?

Answer: Four. The hosting cities were Lake Placid (twice), Squaw Valley, and Salt Lake City.

29. How many years separate the Winter Olympics from the Summer Olympics?

Answer: Two. The two events used to be held in the same year but began alternating after the 1992 Olympics.

30. Which Utah city hosted the Games in February 2002?

Answer: Salt Lake City. This cold-weather destination is scheduled to host the 2034 Games.

