



INTERNATIONAL

AN OLYMPICS LIKE NO OTHER



What a roller coaster ride! The Summer Olympics held in Tokyo from July 23 to August 8 were thrilling from start to finish.

UNCERTAINTY REIGNS

The first nail-biter was whether the international event would take place at all. The Games of the XXXII Olympiad had already been postponed for a year due to COVID-19. Then, this spring, because the pandemic was still in full swing, officials considered cancelling the event altogether. What if the Games became a super-spreader event?

All that uncertainty was hard on the 11,656 athletes arriving from 205 countries. A year and a half of anxiety, confusion, and coronavirus forced them to prepare for competition under difficult circumstances.

Lockdowns made training a challenge. Sharing equipment was problematic. Practices in team sports were restricted. Qualifying events were scrubbed. And with gyms closed, athletes had to improvise to stay fit and ready.

But against all odds, the Games began on schedule. Spectators were banned from most events. Still, the Olympics provided two weeks of entertainment and excitement. And despite the public health concerns, they gave the world something positive to focus on.

CANADA'S MEDAL HAUL

Our nation had every reason to celebrate. The 371 Team Canada athletes brought home a total of 24 medals this year – seven gold, six silver, and 11 bronze. That's a new high for our country.

BY THE NUMBERS

Tokyo 2020 athletes participated in 339 events in 33 sports. The United States won both the most medals (113), and the most gold medals (39). China finished second, with 88 total medals and 38 gold. Japan came third, winning 58 medals – 27 gold.

The Paralympic Games were set to take place from August 24 to September 5. Some 4400 athletes were expected to compete in 540 events in 22 sports.

The next Summer Games will take place in Paris, France in 2024. Beijing hosts the Winter Games this February.

True, we collected 44 medals in the 1984 Summer Games. But that year, the **Soviet Union** and 14 other countries **boycotted** the event for political reasons. Because many top athletes did

DEFINITIONS

BOYCOTT: to refuse to buy, use, or participate in (something) as a way of protesting

SOVIET UNION: a former communist country in eastern Europe and northern Asia; established in 1922; included Russia and 14 other soviet socialist republics (Ukraine and Byelorussia and others); officially dissolved 31 December 1991



not attend, it was easier for Canada to do well. This time, Team Canada faced the best of the best.

A SOCCER CELEBRATION

One highlight? Canada's women's soccer team beat the U.S. team, its longtime rival, in a semi-final game. The U.S. team was ranked number one in the world. But a high penalty kick by Canadian midfielder Jessie Fleming whizzed by U.S. goalkeeper Adrianna Franch to clinch the game in our favour.

Then the Canadian team went on to win its first gold ever, after beating Sweden 3-2 on penalty kicks. Now, Canadian players are calling for more professional soccer opportunities for women so they can stay home instead of playing in the U.S. or Europe.

MORE HIGHLIGHTS

Damian Warner's performance was also a standout for Canada. He earned gold in the **decathlon**. It's the toughest competition of the Games.

Decathlon wins are determined by points. Mr. Warner earned 9018 – only the fourth decathlete ever to surpass 9000 points.

For his part, Andre De Grasse made winning the men's

200-metre race look easy. He did it in just 19.62 seconds.

Then there was swimmer Penny Oleksiak's big moment. The 21-year-old became Canada's most decorated Olympian. She won her seventh medal – a bronze – in the women's 4 x 100-metre medley relay.

"It's 10 times sweeter, knowing that I've accomplished this history with girls who are also making history," she said.

THE WOMEN TRIUMPH

Many Canadian women excelled at the Olympics. Swimmer Maggie Mac Neil won Canada's first gold in the 100-metre butterfly race. She brought three medals home in total.

Weightlifter Maude Charron also achieved a gold. And Jessica Klimkait became the first Canadian woman to win a medal in judo, a bronze. The women's softball team won a bronze, too. It was Canada's first medal in the sport. But the gold that track cyclist Kelsey Mitchell earned in the sprint event was truly remarkable. Four years ago, she didn't even own a bike!

SPORTSMANSHIP WINS!

The Games also had great moments in sportsmanship. U.S.

gymnast Simone Biles showed real courage when she withdrew from two events. She said stress and a case of the **twisties** made that necessary. She was widely praised for raising the importance of mental health. She later went on to win a bronze and a silver medal.

"Put mental health first because if you don't, you're not going to enjoy your sport," she said.

Another show of sportsmanship? High jumpers Gianmarco Tamberi of Italy and Mutaz Barshim of Qatar tied for top spot. They could have had a jump off, but both chose to be awarded gold instead.

SO WAS IT WORTH IT?

The bad news: COVID cases grew rapidly in Japan during the event. However, there was no direct link between that surge and the Olympic Village, where just a few dozen cases occurred.

And the Games proved once again how tough athletes are.

"It's so inspiring," said Eric Myles of the Canadian Olympics Committee (COC). "Canadian athletes came into these Games having faced multiple challenges... and still performed at such a high level." ★

DEFINITIONS

DECATHLON: a two-day event, in which each competitor takes part in the same prescribed 10 events (100-metre dash, long jump, shot put, high jump, 400-metre dash, 110-metre hurdles, discus, pole vault, javelin, and 1500-metre run)

TWISTIES: the sudden inability for a gymnast to make the required spins – or sometimes any spins – for a particular maneuver



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COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Where did the Summer Olympic Games take place from July 23 to August 8?

2. Why were these Olympics postponed?

3. How many athletes from how many countries participated in the Olympics?

4. How many athletes represented Canada in Tokyo?

5. How did the global health crisis affect training for many Olympic athletes?

6. Which country won the most Olympic medals?

7. How many medals did Canada win at these Games?

8. List at least two events in which Canada won a gold medal.

9. List at least two other highlights or accomplishments of Canadian athletes.

10. Which top-rated U.S. gymnast withdrew from two of her scheduled events?

11. Why did she do this? Explain.



QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER THOUGHT

1. There was a unique result in the men’s high jump event at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Two men, Gianmarco Tamberi of Italy and Mutaz Barshim of Qatar, were tied after several jumps, and asked the official, “Can we have two gold?”: <https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=2I24B5AV7tA>

As you see it, how will this collaboration be viewed in years to come? Give reasons to support your ideas.

2. U.S. gymnast Simone Biles, who was ranked one of the favourites in several gymnastic events at the Games, made the decision to withdraw from competing in some of them, citing stress and concerns over her mental health and physical safety. As you see it, how might this decision impact future athletes? Explain.

3. There was much debate leading up to the 2020 Tokyo Games and right up until the opening ceremonies about whether the event should go ahead due to concerns over COVID-19. Given what you have learned and experienced during the pandemic, do you feel that the decision to hold the Games was the right one? Support your response with facts and/or examples.



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QUESTIONS FOR ONLINE EXPLORATION

Note: The links below are listed at www.lesplan.com/en/links for easy access.

1. Find all the results from the 2020 Tokyo Games and read about Canadian athletes on CBC's Olympics website at: <http://olympics.cbc.ca/>

2. Explore the history of the Olympic Games at: <https://olympics.com/en/> Then, list three Olympic facts that you learned:

3. There were two teams at these Games that had a unique status: the Refugee team and the ROC team. Visit the links below to learn more about ONE of these teams. Share what you learned with a peer who chose the other team to research. Compare and contrast the experiences of the athletes on these two teams.

Refugee team: <https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=c-zzmf-1NEo>
<https://olympics.com/ioc/refugee-olympic-team-tokyo-2020>

ROC team: https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=9_oaXMK4pRI
<https://www.sportingnews.com/ca/athletics/news/roc-olympics-team-russia-meaning/reyswszar55210b6meqt71njin>

4. Visit the links below to learn about the Olympic performances of some Canadian athletes. If you were to name the best Canadian moment at the 2020 Tokyo Games, which one would you choose, and why?

Damian Warner (Gold - Decathlon): https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=_cdNn_E3hfY

Andre de Grasse (Gold - Men's 200-metre race): https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=5MI_dH4ItQs

Women's Soccer (Gold): <https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=6q4tT5xFB1c&list=RDCMUcOGxnF5dWQtoEz6E-msabZA&index=2>

Penny Oleksiak (Canada's most decorated Olympian):
<https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=u3xP4Yvpjho>

Maude Charron (Gold - Weightlifting): https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=_KIORAxtYPg

Jessica Klimkait (Bronze - Judo): <https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=AOHHc-K6-dI>

Kelsey Mitchell (Gold - Cycling): <https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=NqnIjAMReLQ>

Maggie Mac Neil (Gold - Butterfly): https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=_WKJttQjyag



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Directions:

1. Study the photographs below.
2. Then, select one and complete each quadrant on the **Getting Inside the Picture** organizer (p. 18). Include as many details as you can.
3. Now, select one of your powerful words. Use this as a springboard for a 5-minute **Quick Write**. Let your pen flow. *A good descriptive paragraph has vivid details and helps the reader “get inside the picture” (experience the event as if he/she were right there).*
4. Generate three possible titles for your picture. Then select the one that best captures the essence of the image. Explain why this is the most suitable title.

Andre De Grasse, of Canada celebrates as he wins the gold medal in the final of the men's 200-metre race at the 2020 Summer Olympics, Aug. 4, 2021, in Tokyo, Japan. (AP Photo/Francisco Seco)



Simone Biles, of the United States, stands holding her mask after she exited the team final with apparent injury, at the 2020 Summer Olympics, July 27, 2021, in Tokyo. The 24-year-old reigning Olympic gymnastics champion huddled with a trainer after landing her vault. She then exited the competition floor with the team doctor. (AP Photo/Gregory Bull)

Prepared with assistance from TC², The Critical Thinking Consortium. © 2021



Title: _____

<p style="text-align: center;">Senses</p> <p style="text-align: center;">What might you hear, smell, taste or touch? What colours, textures, sounds, movements do you experience?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Images</p> <p style="text-align: center;">What details in the photograph create vivid pictures in your mind?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Words</p> <p style="text-align: center;">What powerful words describe the scene? What might you think, wonder, say if you were there?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Feelings</p> <p style="text-align: center;">What do you feel when you look at this image? What might the people in the photograph be feeling?</p>
<p>Quick write</p>	
<p>Possible titles:</p> <p>1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____</p>	
<p>The best title is # _____ because . . .</p>	



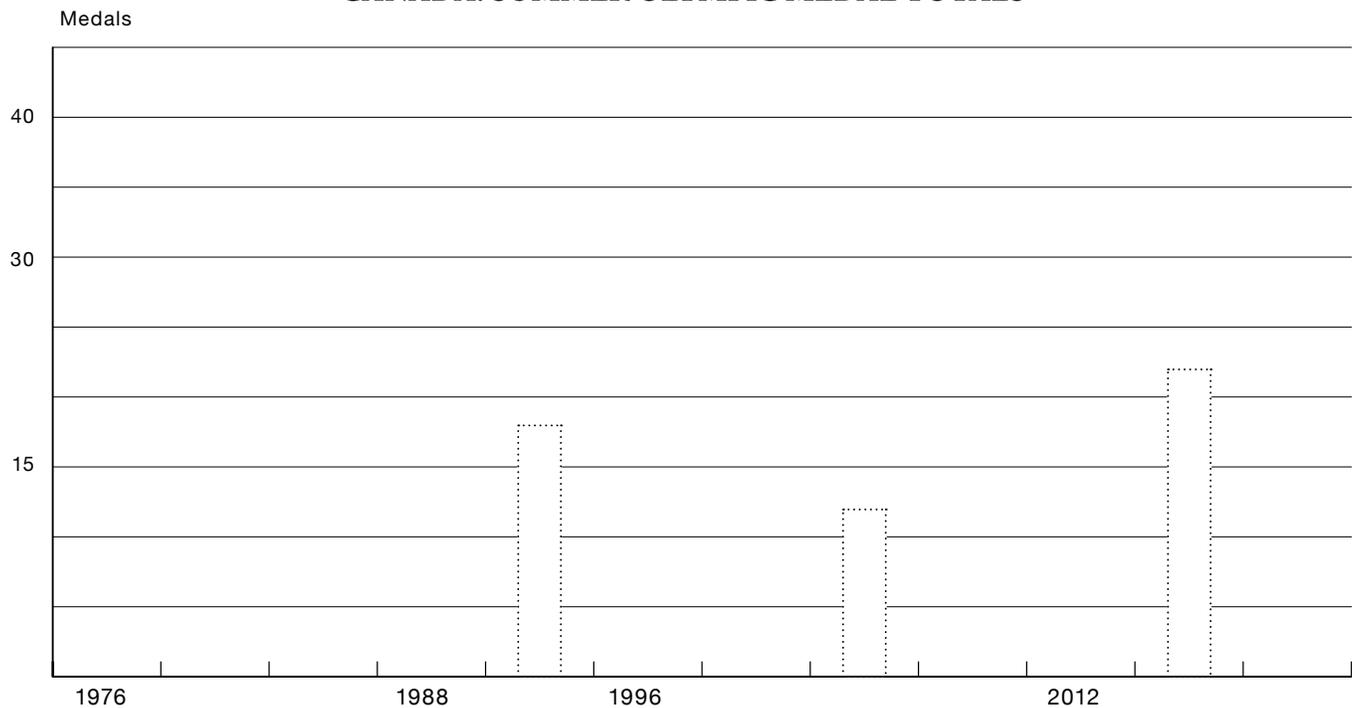
GRAPHING

1. Complete the table below to show the number of medals Canadian athletes won at the last 12 Summer Olympics, using the following link to help you:

http://olympanalyt.com/OlympAnalytics.php?param_pagetype=MedalsByGames¶m_country=CAN

Year	1976	1980	1984	1988	1992	1996
Medals	11			10		
City		Moscow	Los Angeles	Seoul	Barcelona	Atlanta
Country	Canada		USA		Spain	
Year	2000	2004	2008	2012	2016	2020
Medals		12			22	
City	Sydney	Athens		London	Rio de Janeiro	Tokyo
Country	Australia		China	UK	Brazil	

CANADA: SUMMER OLYMPIC MEDAL TOTALS



2. Then, plot a bar graph to show Canada's total medal count for each Summer Olympics between 1976 and 2020.

3. Examine your graph. What observations can you make and what conclusions can you draw? Explain. ★



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PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

A. Write the letter that corresponds to the best answer on the line beside each question:

- _____ 1. **The Games of the XXXII Olympiad were postponed for a year due to:**
a) heavy rains and flooding in Japan b) several countries boycotting the Games
c) COVID-19 d) a lack of volunteers
- _____ 2. **Which athlete became the most decorated Canadian Olympian during these Games?**
a) Penny Oleksiak b) Andre De Grasse
c) Vladimir Guerrero Jr. d) Christine Sinclair
- _____ 3. **Which country won the most medals at the Summer Olympics?**
a) China b) Russian Olympic Committee
c) United States d) Japan

B. Mark the statements T (True) or F (False). If a statement is True, write one important fact to support it on the line below. If a statement is False, write the words that make it true on the line below.

_____ 4. **True or False?** Canada won a total of 24 medals at the 2020 Tokyo Games.

_____ 5. **True or False?** Sweden defeated Canada in a shootout to win gold in women's soccer.

_____ 6. **True or False?** Jessica Klimkait withdrew from two events to focus on her mental health.

C. Fill in the blanks to complete each sentence.

7. Spectators were _____ from most Olympic stadiums and venues.
8. The _____ combines ten different track and field events into one overall event.
9. The _____ Games took place in Tokyo from August 24 to September 5.

D. Respond to the following question in paragraph form. *(Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary.)*

10. **Winning a medal is the most important part of participating in the Olympic Games.** Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give reasons to support your answer.
