

# FEEL THE OLYMPIC SPIRIT<sup>1</sup>

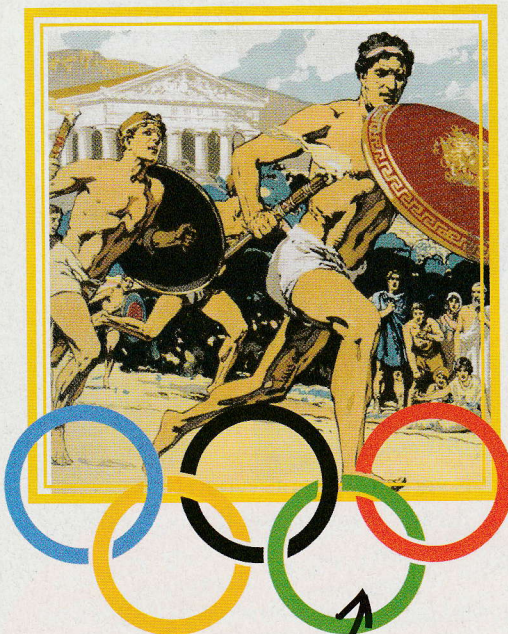
## 120 YEARS OF THE GAMES

This year is the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary<sup>2</sup> of the first modern Olympic games, which took place in Athens in 1896. Only 14 countries took part in those games. Today the games are much bigger. This year, more than 10,000 athletes [ˈæθli:t] from about 200 countries took part.

But the first ancient (= starověký) Olympic games were much earlier, about 3,000 years ago. They took place in Olympia, Greece around 776 BCE\*. They were a part of a festival for Zeus, the king of the Greek gods.

And that is only the summer games. The winter games are for sports on ice and snow, and the Paralympic games (both winter and summer) are for athletes with disabilities<sup>3</sup>.

There are also Youth<sup>4</sup> Olympic games for young people aged 14 to 18. These started in 2010, but they are growing fast. Some winners from the last youth games competed<sup>5</sup> in Rio (for example, the young Brazilian archer<sup>6</sup> Marcus D'Almeida).



### THE RINGS AND THE FLAME<sup>10</sup>

The most famous symbol of the games is the Olympic flame. A woman lights the flame in Olympia (home of the original Greek Olympics) using the sun's energy. People carry the flame from Greece to the host nation<sup>11</sup> of the Olympics. It then travels around the country.

Another famous Olympic symbol is the five circles. Each circle represents one of the five continents. The Olympic motto is *Citius, Altius, Fortius*: faster, higher, stronger.



### VOCABULARY

1. spirit [ˈspɪrɪt] duch, myšlenka
2. anniversary [ˌænɪˈvɜːsəri] výročí
3. disability [ˌdɪsəˈbɪləti] handicap, vada
4. youth [juːθ] pro mládež, mládežnický
5. to compete [kəmˈpiːt] soutěžit, závodit, utkat se
6. archer [ˈɑːtʃə(r)] lukostřelec
7. creed [kriːd] vyznání
8. hero [ˈhɪərəʊ] hrdina
9. to believe [brɪˈliːv] věřit, domnívat se
10. flame [fleɪm] plamen, oheň
11. host nation [həʊst ˈneɪʃn] pořadatelská země

### THE CREED<sup>7</sup>

The film *Eddie the Eagle* (2016) tells the story of British skier Eddie Edwards. He was a true Olympic hero<sup>8</sup>. He was the worst skier in Olympic history, but he truly believed<sup>9</sup> the Olympic creed: "The most important thing is not to win, but to take part."

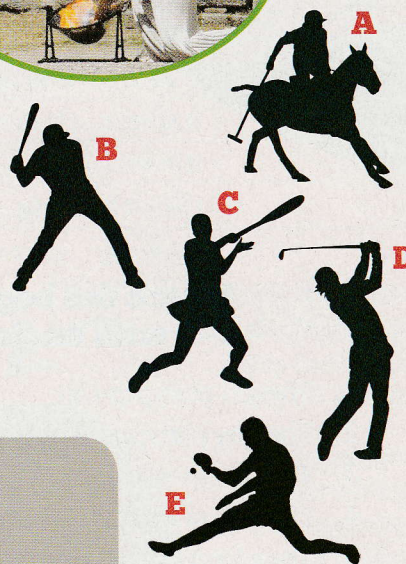


EDDIE EDWARDS



### TASK

**TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE**  
Match the pictures with the sports. Which of these sports were in the Rio games in 2016?



1. baseball
2. squash
3. golf
4. roller skating
5. water polo
6. trampoline
7. rugby sevens
8. table tennis
9. sailing
10. polo



### LANGUAGE POINT

#### Be Careful!

to take place - konat se  
to take part in - účastnit se

#### \*GLOSSARY

BCE - before the Common Era  
(= před našim letopočtem)