Olympic Opening Ceremonies

The Olympic Opening Ceremony is always a highlight of the games. Read on to find out how different countries have used the ceremony to promote their cultures.

The opening ceremony of the Sydney games in 2000 explored Australia's history from the earliest days of Aboriginal culture. [1]_____ The show celebrated the great Australian landscape, the cities and the diversity of the people.

In 2004 the Olympics returned to their birthplace, and Greece presented a stunning picture of its history and achievements. [2]_____ This vision symbolised Greece as a tiny country with far-reaching ideas that changed the world.

China's ceremony in 2008 defi nitely scored a goal. An awe-inspiring display by 15,000 performers was almost military in its exactness. [3]_____ For sheer size and precision, the Beijing ceremony seems impossible to beat.

Not surprisingly, the 2012 London ceremony was a total contrast. It replaced Chinese precision with British eccentricity and humour. Perhaps Queen Elizabeth II parachuting from a plane in the arms of James Bond seemed unrelated to the Olympic spirit, but it certainly made a statement about Britain!

LIVEWORKSHEETS