

3 Read the rest of the text and find the correct headings for each paragraph.

- THE OLYMPIC FLAG
- MEDALS
- THE PARALYMPIC GAMES
- THE WINTER OLYMPICS
- THE OLYMPIC MASCOT
- THE OLYMPIC FLAME
- THE SUMMER OLYMPICS

The Olympic Games are a modern international sports event. The best athletes from many countries all over the world compete in different sports. The games take place every four years in a different country. All athletes are proud to represent their country. The motto of the Olympic Games is: FASTER, HIGHER, STRONGER.

This is one of the symbols of the games. It has a white background with five interlocking rings: blue, yellow, black, green and red. Why these six colours? Because they appear on all the national flags of the world. The five rings represent the five inhabited continents of the world: America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Oceania.

94



During the two to three summer weeks, athletes compete in more than 30 sports disciplines: gymnastics, athletics, rowing, sailing, badminton, wrestling and many others. The modern Summer Olympics started in 1896.

Figure skating, ice hockey, skiing, snowboarding and bobsleigh are some of the ice and snow sports that you can see during the games. There aren't so many sports as during the Summer Olympics, but they are also interesting. The first Winter Games were organised in France in 1924.

1<sup>st</sup> disability [dɪsə'bɪlɪtɪ] — інвалідність

96



This is a character that represents not only the country where the Olympic Games are taking place but also the Olympic spirit. It is usually an animal: a tiger (Seoul, 1988), a dog (Barcelona, 1992) an eagle (Los Angeles, 1984). But it can also be a creature: Fuwa (Beijing, 2008), Wenlock and Mandeville (London, 2012), Vinicius and Tom (Rio, 2016).



Vinicius and Tom

The best athletes in each sports event get medals: gold for the first place, silver for the second place and bronze for the third place. However, the most important thing about the games is not to win, but to take part.

This tradition comes from a long time ago — from ancient Greece. Months before each games, a torch is lit at Olympia in Greece and athletes carry it across the world to the city where the new Olympic Games take place. The flame travels through many countries and it remains lit until the last day of the games. During the closing ceremony, it is put out.



### True or False

1 The Olympic Games take place every five years.

- T  F

2 There are six colours of the Olympic flag: white, pink, yellow, brown, grey and red.

- T  F

3 The Olympic mascot is a building that represents the country where the games take place.

- T  F

4 The Summer Olympics last for 2 to 3 weeks.

- T  F

5 The most important thing about the games is to win.

- T  F

6 The Winter Olympics aren't older than the Summer Olympics.

- T  F

7 The Olympic flame is lit during the last day of the games.

- T  F

8 The Paralympic Games are the games for senior athletes

- T  F