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Greatest Show on Earth The Olympic Games are the greatest festival of sport in the world. Every four years, a hundred or more countries send their best sportsmen to compete for the highest honors in sport. As many as 6,000 people take part in over 20 sports. For the winners, there are gold medals and glory. But there is honor, too, for all who compete, win or lose. That is in spirit of the Olympics-to take part is what matters. The Olympic Games always start in a bright color and action. The teams of all the nations parade in the opening ceremony and march round the track. The custom is for the Greek team to march in first. For it was in Greece that the Olympics began. The team of the country where the Games are being held- the host country-marches in last. The runner with the Olympic torch then enters the stadium and lights the flame. A sportsman from the host country takes the Olympic oath on behalf of all the competitors. The judges and officials also take an oath. After the sportsman march out of the stadium, the host country puts on a wonderful display? The competitions begin the next day. There are usually more than twenty sorts in the Games. The rule is that there must be at least fifteen. The main events are in track and field, but it is a few days before these sports start. Each day the competitors take part in a different sport-riding, shooting, swimming, and cross-country running. Points are gained for each event. Medals are awarded for the

individual winners and for national teams. More and more women are taking part in the games. They first competed in 1900, in tennis and golf, which are no longer held in the Olympics, Womens swimming events were introduced in 1912. But it was not until 1928 that there were any track and field events for women. Now, they compete in all but half a-dozen of the sports. In horse riding, shooting, and boat racing, they may compete in the same events as the men.

1. why is there honor for the losers as well as for the winners?  
A) Because failure is the mother of the success.  
B) Because losers need encouragement, too.  
C) Because losers and winners should be equally treated.  
D) Because what really matters is to take part in the Olympic Games.

2. Which of the following is a long-established practice in the opening ceremony?  
A) Runners enter the stadium with torches.  
B) Each team has to put on a wonderful display.  
C) The Greek team marches in first.  
D) Men and women were magnificent clothes.

3. Who takes the Olympic oath?  
A) A judge from the host country.  
B) An official from the host country.  
C) A Greek sportsman.  
D) A sportsman from the host country.

4. What the most important events in the Olympic Games?  
A) The track and field events.  
B) The horse-riding events.  
C) The swimming events.  
D) The boat-racing events.

5. When did women start taking part in Olympic Games?  
A) In 1912.  
B) In 1900.  
C) In 1928.  
D) In 1924.

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