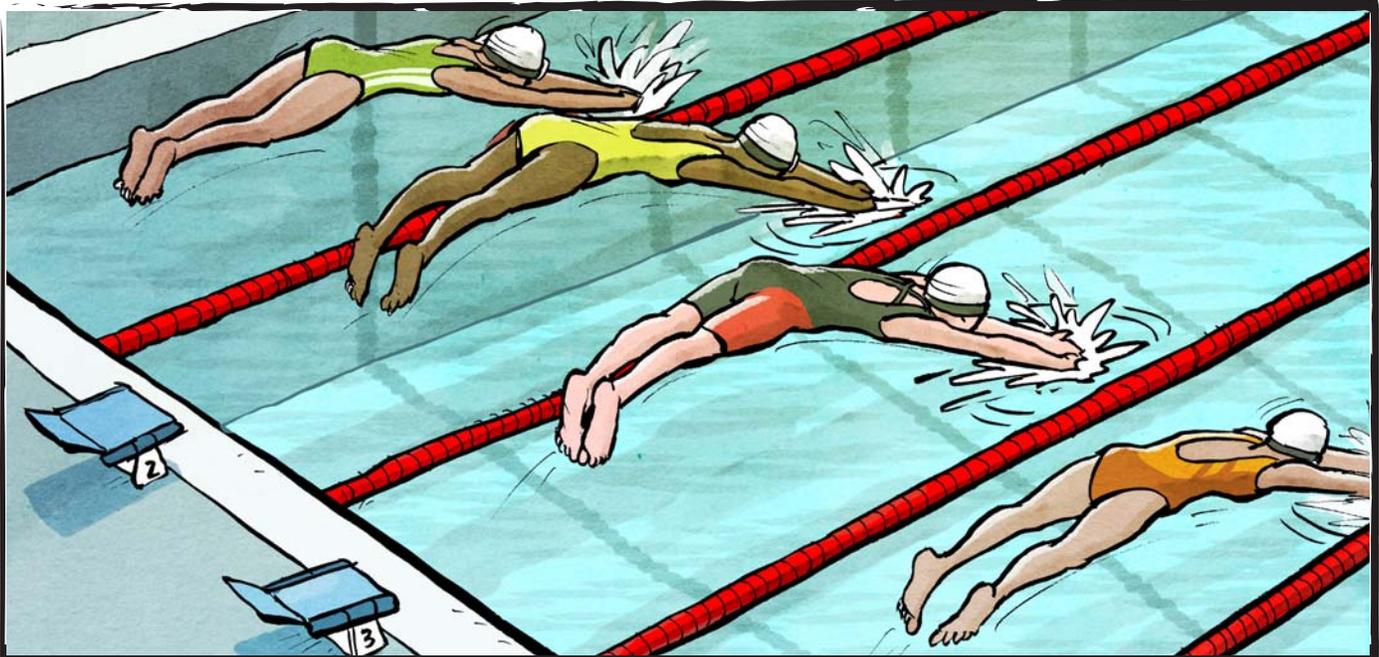


2016 Summer Olympics Recap



Sixteen-year-old Penny Oleksiak competed in her first Olympic Games this summer. Her results surprised everyone, herself included. The Toronto teen won not one but four swimming medals in the pool. She became Canada's youngest-ever Olympic champion.

Not a bad way to spend your summer holidays.

It's a wrap

The 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil ended August 21st. (The Paralympics will run from September 7-18.)

More than 10,000 athletes from 205 countries took part. Canada won four gold, three silver and 15 bronze medals – 22 in all.

That's four more than we won at the 2012 Olympics in London, England. It put us in 10th place in the world. First place went to the United States with 121 medals.

But numbers don't capture the Olympic experience. It's really about the athletes. The Olympics are a time when the world's best gather in one place. They compete. They excel. They demonstrate what is humanly possible.

Canadian champions

Canadians had a lot to cheer about. Sprinter Andre De Grasse won three medals in his first Olympics. High jumper Derek Drouin sailed over the bar set at 2.38 metres to win gold. Rosie MacLennan's gold medal came in trampoline.

Wrestler Erica Wiebe also took home a gold medal. "I never thought I'd be an Olympic champion but today I had my best day," she said.

Not all athletes saw their Olympic dreams come true. Runner Melissa Bishop missed out on a bronze medal by 13/100th of a second.

“This is what we work for a decade,” she said. “And to be that close ... it’s tough.”

The dark side of the Games

In the months leading up to these Games, there were concerns. Would Rio be ready in time? What about crime? Or pollution? Or virus-carrying mosquitoes?

In the end, the Rio Olympics went off with few hitches.

Still, not everyone is an Olympics fan. Some say the Games are too commercial. Too much flag-waving and emphasis on medals. Too many athletes using drugs to improve their performances.

And too expensive. Some people living in Rio de Janeiro are desperately poor. The billions spent on the Olympics could have been better used elsewhere, say critics.

And yet...

The Olympics are also irresistible. We watch in awe as athletes put it all on the line. We are moved by their personal stories.

Ms MacLennan talked about the gratitude that many Olympics athletes feel.

“Mostly we are grateful to have a chance to live out our dreams and to maybe spark a few dreams back home.”

Did you watch the Olympics this summer? Were you inspired? Of course, not all of us can become Olympians. But we can challenge ourselves. We can try to be the best we can be.

The Olympics can light that spark.

★ As you see it, what is the importance of the Olympic Games? Explain



DID YOU KNOW?

OLYMPIC HISTORY

THE OLYMPIC GAMES WERE FIRST HELD ABOUT 3,500 YEARS AGO. THEY WERE HELD IN OLYMPIA, GREECE.



THESE GAMES WERE VERY POPULAR. BUT IN 394 CE., THE ROMAN RULER PUT AN END TO THEM. HE SAID THEY WENT AGAINST THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION.

OVER 1500 YEARS LATER, PIERRE DE COUBERTIN BEGAN WORKING ON A PLAN TO BRING THE GAMES BACK. HE BELIEVED SPORT WAS GOOD FOR EVERYONE. HE THOUGHT THE OLYMPICS WOULD HELP BRING COUNTRIES TOGETHER.



THE FIRST MODERN SUMMER OLYMPICS WERE HELD IN ATHENS, GREECE IN 1896. THE FIRST WINTER GAMES TOOK PLACE IN 1924.



NOW, THE SUMMER AND WINTER OLYMPICS ALTERNATE ON EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS.



IN 2018 PYEONGCHANG, SOUTH KOREA WILL HOST THE WINTER OLYMPICS. THE NEXT SUMMER OLYMPICS WILL TAKE PLACE IN 2020 IN TOKYO, JAPAN.

DEAS!