

## Naomi Osaka lights flame to open Tokyo Olympics

27th July, 2021



Tennis superstar Naomi Osaka has lit the flame to finally open the 2020 Olympic Games. After a tumultuous year, the Tokyo Olympics Opening Ceremony officially got under way, albeit a year late. Because of fears of a fifth wave of Covid-19 cases in Japan's capital,

it has been touch and go as to whether or not the Summer Games would go ahead. The pandemic has already greatly impacted the event. It now takes place with no fans in attendance and several athletes having to withdraw after testing positive. Japan still hopes the Games will showcase its culture to the world. The Opening Ceremony drew to a close around midnight in Japan with a spectacular fireworks display illuminating Tokyo's night sky.

According to Tokyo 2020 organizers, 950 people attended the opening ceremony. This is in a venue with a capacity of 68,000. Attendees included Japan's Emperor Naruhito, the US First Lady Jill Biden and French President Emmanuel Macron. Emperor Naruhito declared the Games officially open. International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach said: "It is very different from what all of us had imagined, but let us cherish this moment because finally we are all here together. Today is a moment of hope." Naomi Osaka later tweeted about her excitement at lighting the flame. She said it was: "Undoubtedly the greatest athletic achievement and honour I will ever have in my life."

Sources: [japantimes.co.uk](http://japantimes.co.uk) / [kyodonews.net](http://kyodonews.net) / [cnn.com](http://cnn.com)

### Writing

The Olympics is the greatest show in the world. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

tennis / superstar / flame / ceremony / wave / capital / pandemic / fireworks / sky / venue / capacity / emperor / cherish / moment / hope / athletic / achievement

### True / False

- 1) The article says the Games opened after a tremendous year. T / F
- 2) There are fears that a fifth covid-19 wave will break out in Tokyo. T / F
- 3) Only a few spectators are allowed in each of the Olympics venues. T / F
- 4) The Opening Ceremony ended around 12pm in Japan. T / F
- 5) Just over 1,000 people attended the Opening Ceremony. T / F
- 6) The First Lady of the USA was an attendee at the Opening Ceremony. T / F
- 7) Naomi Osaka declared the Games open. T / F
- 8) Ms Osaka said lighting the flames was one of the best things she's done. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. <b>finally</b>      | a. proclaimed     |
| 2. <b>tumultuous</b>   | b. uncertain      |
| 3. <b>touch and go</b> | c. size           |
| 4. <b>fans</b>         | d. unquestionably |
| 5. <b>illuminating</b> | e. spectators     |
| 6. <b>capacity</b>     | f. eventually     |
| 7. <b>declared</b>     | g. accomplishment |
| 8. <b>cherish</b>      | h. tumultuous     |
| 9. <b>undoubtedly</b>  | i. treasure       |
| 10. <b>achievement</b> | j. lighting up    |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) How will your country do at the Olympics?
- c) What message do you have for the athletes?
- d) What advice do you have for the organizers?
- e) At which Olympics event would you like to win a gold medal?
- f) How important is it to cherish every moment in life?
- g) What is the greatest achievement of your life?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the Olympics organizers?

## Phrase Match

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. After a tumultuous                           | a. Tokyo's night sky     |
| 2. officially got under way,                    | b. Games officially open |
| 3. It now takes place with no                   | c. year                  |
| 4. The Opening Ceremony drew to a               | d. capacity of 68,000    |
| 5. a spectacular fireworks display illuminating | e. fans in attendance    |
| 6. This is in a venue with a                    | f. achievement           |
| 7. Emperor Naruhito declared the                | g. of hope               |
| 8. let us                                       | h. close around midnight |
| 9. Today is a moment                            | i. cherish this moment   |
| 10. the greatest athletic                       | j. albeit a year late    |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of the Olympics?
- How do the Olympics bring the world together?
- What do you think of the Olympics being in Tokyo?
- What was the best Olympics ever?
- What do you know about tennis superstar Naomi Osaka?
- What do you think of there being no fans at the Olympics?
- What aspects of Japanese culture should Tokyo showcase?
- What do you think of fireworks displays?

## Spelling

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- baetli a year late
- greatly ecpdatmi the event
- several athletes having to twaihrwd
- a etlapaursc fireworks display
- liiugtmalinn Tokyo's night sky
- in a enuve with a capacity of 68,000
- Japan's oepmErr Naruhito
- cdaeredl the Games officially open
- tweeted about her meixetentc
- eoubddtunly the greatest
- athletic hitneecmave

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. h	3. b	4. e	5. j
6. c	7. a	8. i	9. d	10. g

## Role Play

### Role A – Marathon

You think the marathon is the best Olympics events. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sports aren't as interesting. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): cycling, gymnastics or archery.

### Role B – Cycling

You think cycling is the best Olympics events. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sports aren't as interesting. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): the marathon, gymnastics or archery.

### Role C – Gymnastics

You think gymnastics is the best Olympics events. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sports aren't as interesting. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): cycling, the marathon or archery.

### Role D – Archery

You think archery is the best Olympics events. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sports aren't as interesting. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): cycling, gymnastics or the marathon.

## Speaking – Olympics Events

Rank these with your partner. Put the best events at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| • Marathon | • Archery    |
| • Cycling  | • Gymnastics |
| • Judo     | • Rowing     |
| • Swimming | • 100 metres |

### Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	F	4	T	5	F	6	T	7	F	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.