O is for Olympics
Learn cool Olympic facts while counting down to the opening ceremonies.

Print on blue, black, red, yellow and green paper and form a paper chain.

1908 Summer Olympics is the longest games of the Olympic history which took place from 27 April 1908 to 31 October 1908 (187 days).

The Olympic Winter Games have only been held in the Northern Hemisphere.

Each ring in the Olympic Rings represents a different region of the world and each ring is colored to represent the flags of the nations in that region.

Only four athletes in the history of the Olympics have won medals in both the Winter and Summer Games.

The Olympic gold medals were made of solid gold until 1912. They are now silver covered with a thin layer of gold.

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In the 1908 London Olympics, the organizers tacked on 385 yards to the already established 26-mile run so that the Royal Family could properly see the finish line.

The Olympic motto is "Citius, Altius, Fortius.", which is Latin for "Swifter, Higher, Stronger"

The first opening ceremonies were held during the 1908 Olympic Games in London.

In 1960, Walt Disney was the head of the committee for the Olympic Opening Ceremonies, held in Squaw Valley, California, near Lake Tahoe.

Women were not allowed to take part in the Ancient Olympic Games. Married women were not even allowed to watch.

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Dimitrios Loundras (a Greek gymnast) won a bronze medal in the 1896 Athens Olympics at the age of 10. He is the youngest competitor and medalist on record.

The 1936 Berlin Olympics were the first Olympic Games to ever be televised.

First place winners in the 1900 Paris Olympics received paintings instead of gold medals because they were considered to be more valuable.

The first Olympic city to award Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals was St. Louis in 1904.

China did not win a medal until 1984. At the 2008 Beijing Olympics alone, they received 100 medals including 51 gold.

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London is the only city to have hosted the official Games three times—in 1908, 1948, 2012.

1980 Lake Placid, USA was the first city to use artificial snow in a Winter Olympics.

Sochi Russia is the warmest city to host the winter Olympics.

Three continents—Africa, South America, and Antarctica—have never hosted an Olympics (as of 2014).

During the opening ceremony, the Greek team enters first, followed by all the other teams in alphabetical order (in the language of the host country). The last team is always the host country.
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The Swedish shooting expert, Oscar Swahn is the oldest Olympic medalist. He won his last medal at the age of 72.

Abebe Bikila, an Olympic marathon champion from Ethiopia. He won a gold medal in the 1960 Summer Olympics while running barefoot.

The first ever Winter Olympic Games were held in Chamonix, France in 1924.

Only 11 women competed in the first winter Olympic Games.

Ancient Olympic athletes completed nude.