

## OLYMPIC OPENING CEREMONY

The Olympic Opening Ceremony was held in Sydney, Australia on September 15, 2000. It was an international event and the whole world was watching! The event was held in a stadium designed to seat a large group of people.

The athletes entered the stadium in a specific order. The athletes from Greece entered first in honor of the original Olympics held in Greece. Then, the other athletes followed by nation in the alphabetical order of the host country's language. The host country's athletes came last. So for this Olympics, the athletes from Australia entered the stadium last.

The chief of state of the host country declared the games open, followed by the raising of the Olympic Flag. Music was played and fireworks were set off in salute. Then, doves were released into the air as a symbol of peace.

Runners in cross-country relays brought in the Olympic torch. The running of the torch began four weeks before the Olympic ceremony and thousands of runners took part in this. Planes and ships transported the Olympic torch to each country that lies between Greece and the host country.

The most exciting moment of the Olympic ceremony was when the torch entered the stadium and lit the Olympic Flame. The Flame was kept burning until the end of the Olympic games.

READ EACH OF THE FOLLOWING VERY CAREFULLY AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS:

1. **Who declared the Olympic games open during this ceremony?**
  - a. the torch runner
  - b. athletes
  - c. the host country's chief of state
  - d. none of these

2. **Why do the athletes from Greece enter the stadium first?**
  - a. in honor of the ancient Olympics in Greece
  - b. in honor of the torch runner
  - c. in honor of the athletes from Australia
  - d. none of these
  
3. **How is the Olympic torch transported to each country that lies between Greece and the host nation?**
  - a. planes
  - b. car
  - c. ships
  - d. both a and c
  
4. **What is the most exciting moment of the Olympic games opening ceremony?**
  - a. when the athletes enter the stadium
  - b. when the torch runner lights the Olympic Flame
  - c. when the games are announced open
  - d. none of these
  
5. **What is the author's purpose of this writing?**
  - a. to entertain
  - b. for information
  - c. both a and b
  - d. none of these