

NAME: _____

Understanding the Modern Olympic Games

Part 1:

Baron Pierre de Coubertin designed the Olympic symbol in 1913. This emblem consists of five connected rings that appear in a single color or in colors that are always the same from left to right—blue, yellow, black, green, and red. It is said that at least one of the five colors appears in the flag of every nation!

Use references in your classroom such as an atlas, an encyclopedia, or the Internet to help you list the five major continents that each ring represents:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

What do the Olympic rings mean to you?

Did You Know?

Baron Pierre de Coubertin was a French nobleman who founded the modern Olympic Games in 1896. He believed that holding sporting events and gathering athletes from around the world would inspire peace and friendship everywhere.

Part 2:

Jennifer Rodriguez dreamed of competing in the Olympic Games all her life. A former national champion in artistic roller skating, Jennifer got a shot at Olympic gold when she switched to speed skating 10 years ago. She won two bronze medals at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City and is looking to do even better in Torino. Jennifer is Cuban-American and is proud to represent her heritage. Jennifer said, "Winning medals in 2002 was something very special for the Cuban-American population because it gave them someone to cheer for in a winter sport." Jennifer, whose nickname is J.Rod, cites her parents, coaches, and husband as the biggest influences in her life.

On a separate sheet of paper, write a short essay about how you think Jennifer Rodriguez will feel as she participates in the Torino Games. Use ten words from the list below that will help to capture her emotions as an Olympic Games athlete.

proud
achievement
excellence
peace
global
participation

determination
excited
optimistic
celebration
striving

honor
patriotic
respectful
inspiration
friendship

BONUS!

Write a letter to your favorite Olympic Games athlete encouraging him or her to perform well at the Olympic Games.



Jennifer Rodriguez

