

Showdown

# Olympic Spirit



Ben Nussbaum

## Publishing Credits

Rachelle Cracchiolo, *M.S.Ed., Publisher*  
Conni Medina, *M.A.Ed., Managing Editor*  
Nika Fabienke, *Ed.D., Series Developer*  
June Kikuchi, *Content Director*  
Susan Daddis, *M.A.Ed., Editor*  
Kevin Pham, *Graphic Designer*

The TIME logo is a registered trademark of TIME Inc. Used under license.

**Image Credits:** Front cover, p.1 Petr Toman/Shutterstock; p.1 (background) BBA Photography/Shutterstock; pp.8–9 Aflo Co., Ltd./Alamy; pp.10–11 Action Plus Sports/Alamy; p.15 (bottom right) Xinhua/Alamy; pp.16–17 Tim Clayton/Corbis via Getty Images; pp.18–19 James Whitmore/The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Images; p.20 Mark Kauffman/The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Images; p.22 (middle) Popperfoto/Getty Images; p.24 (top) Li Ming/Xinhua/Alamy; pp.24–25 Mario Tama/Getty Images; pp.26–27 Yasuyoshi Chiba/AFP/Getty Images; p.28 (bottom) Urbanbuzz/Shutterstock; pp.30–31 Mike Powell /Allsport/Getty Images; p.34 (bottom) James Davie/Alamy; pp.34–35 George S. de Blonsky/Alamy; p.36 Scott Barbour/Allsport/Getty Images; pp.36–37 Bob Daemrich/Alamy; pp.38–39 Santiago Vidal Vallejo/Alamy; pp.40–41 Odd Andersen/AFP/Getty Images; all other images from iStock and or Shutterstock.

All companies and products mentioned in this book are registered trademarks of their respective owners or developers and are used in this book strictly for editorial purposes; no commercial claim to their use is made by the author or the publisher.

## Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Nussbaum, Ben, 1975- author.

Title: Showdown : Olympics / Ben Nussbaum.

Description: Huntington Beach, CA : Teacher Created Materials, 2019. |

Includes index. | Audience: Grade 4 to 6.

Identifiers: LCCN 2017056312 (print) | LCCN 2018010926 (ebook) | ISBN 9781425849993 (e-book) | ISBN 9781425849993 (pbk.)

Subjects: LCSH: Olympics--Juvenile literature. | Sportsmanship--Juvenile literature.

Classification: LCC GV721.53 (ebook) | LCC GV721.53 .N87 2019 (print) | DDC 796.48--dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2017056312>

## Teacher Created Materials

5301 Oceanus Drive

Huntington Beach, CA 92649-1030

[www.tcmpub.com](http://www.tcmpub.com)

**ISBN 978-1-4258-4999-3**

© 2019 Teacher Created Materials, Inc.

# Table of Contents

Olympic Ideals .....	4
A Global Gathering.....	6
All-Around Champs.....	14
Unlikely Winners .....	25
Spreading the Olympic Spirit.....	34
Celebrating the Olympic Spirit .....	41
Glossary .....	42
Index .....	44
Check It Out!.....	46
Try It! .....	47
About the Author.....	48



# Olympic Ideals

Can sports make the world a better place? Pierre de Coubertin (duh koo-behr-TEHN) thought so. The French educator had big dreams—and a very specific plan. Inspired by ancient Greek sporting events that brought together rival cities, he wanted to create an athletic festival that would bring together the whole world.

In 1896, his vision gave birth to the first modern Olympics. They were held in Athens, Greece.

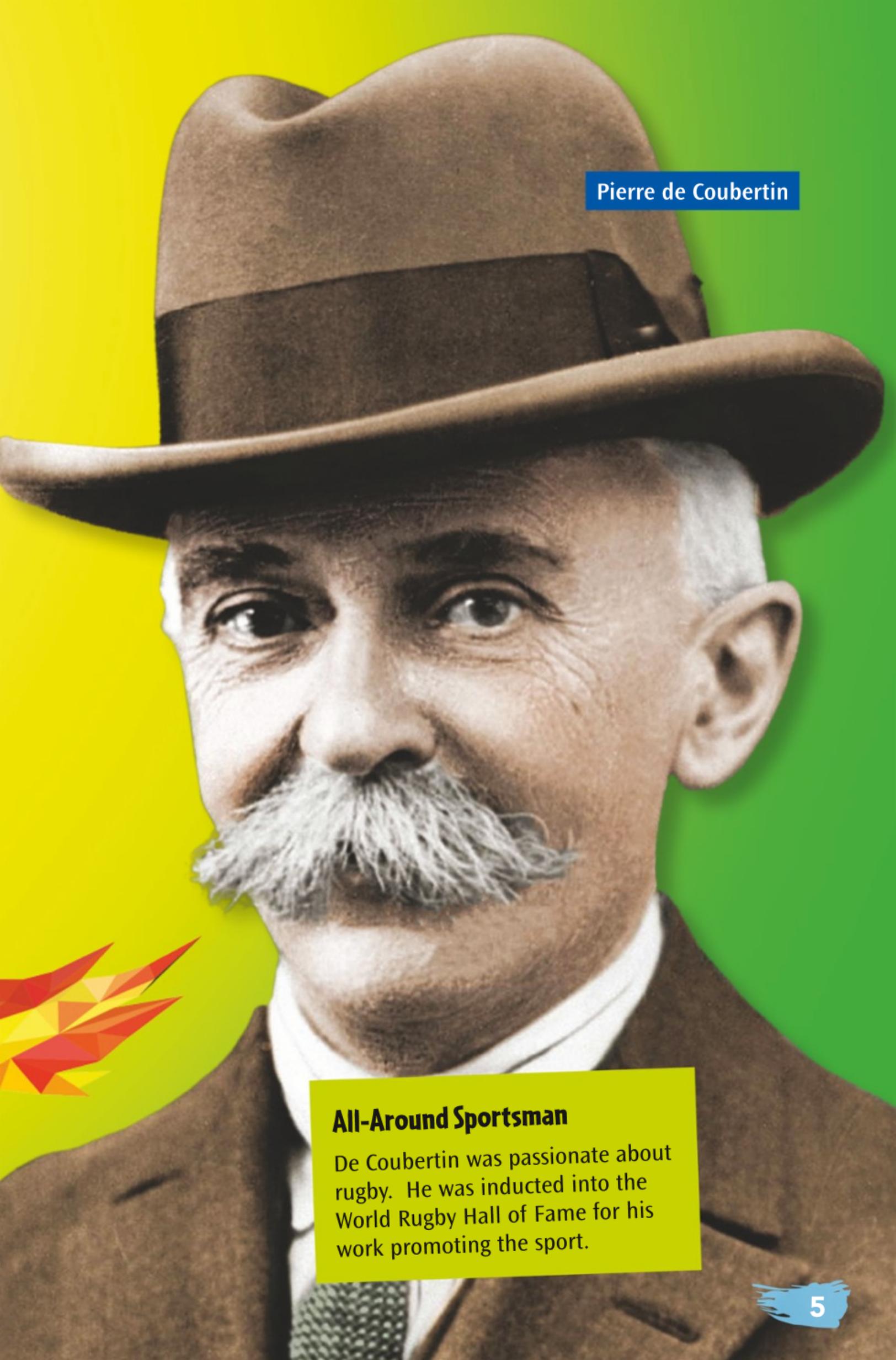
De Coubertin did not organize the Olympics just to find out who could run the fastest or who could jump the farthest. In a poem, de Coubertin captured the spirit he wanted for the Olympics. “O sport, you are peace! You **forge** happy bonds between people,” he wrote.

For over one hundred years, the Olympics have brought people together, proving that competition can create community.

## Olympic Art?

From 1912 to 1948, the Olympics included an art competition. Mixing art and sports was part of de Coubertin’s unique vision. De Coubertin even won a gold medal for his poem “Ode to Sport.”

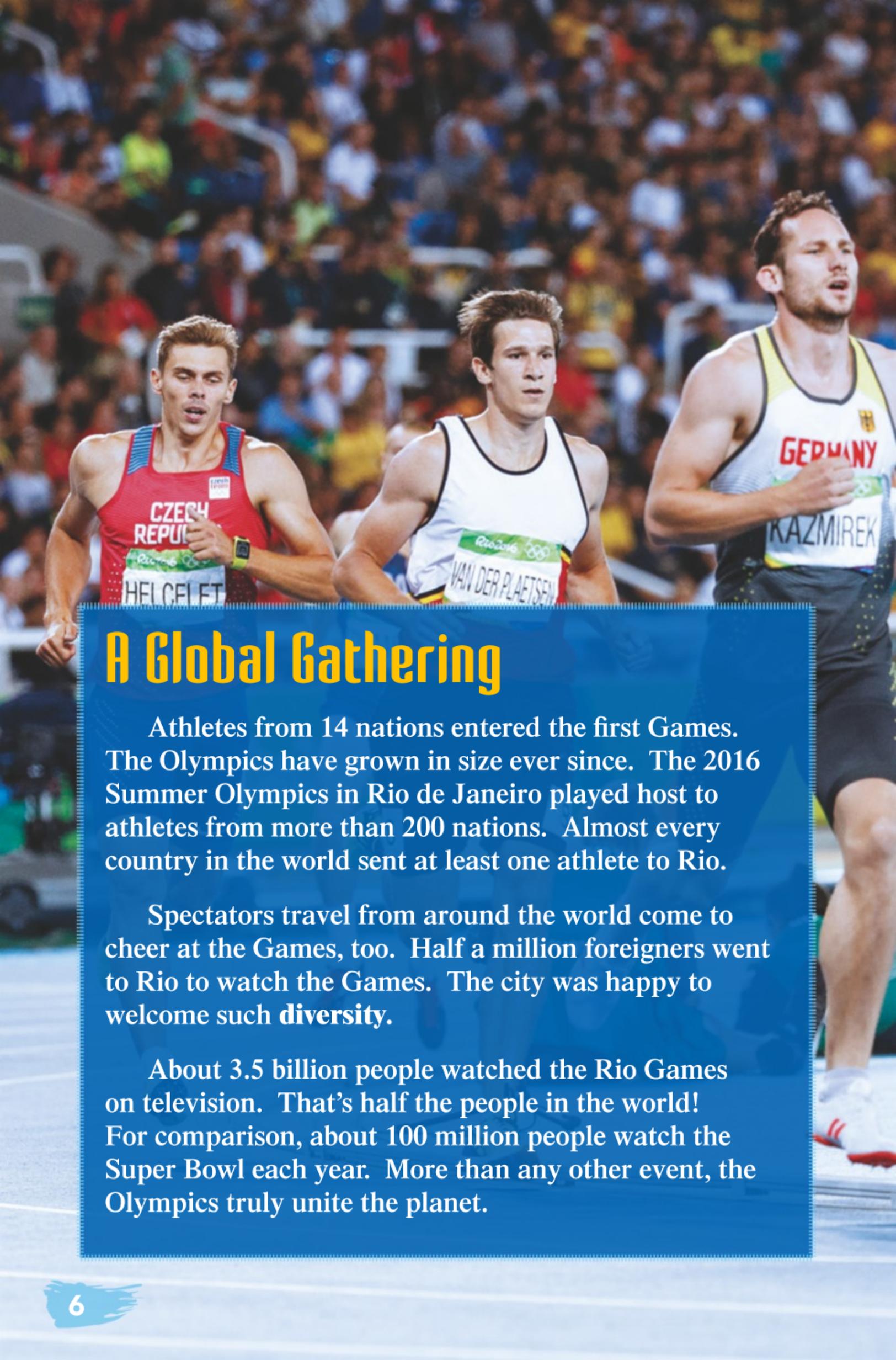


A close-up portrait of Pierre de Coubertin, an elderly man with a prominent white mustache, wearing a brown hat and a brown suit jacket. The background is a vibrant green and yellow gradient. A blue rectangular box is positioned in the upper right corner, and a yellow rectangular box is in the lower right corner. A stylized red and yellow geometric graphic is visible in the bottom left corner.

Pierre de Coubertin

### **All-Around Sportsman**

De Coubertin was passionate about rugby. He was inducted into the World Rugby Hall of Fame for his work promoting the sport.

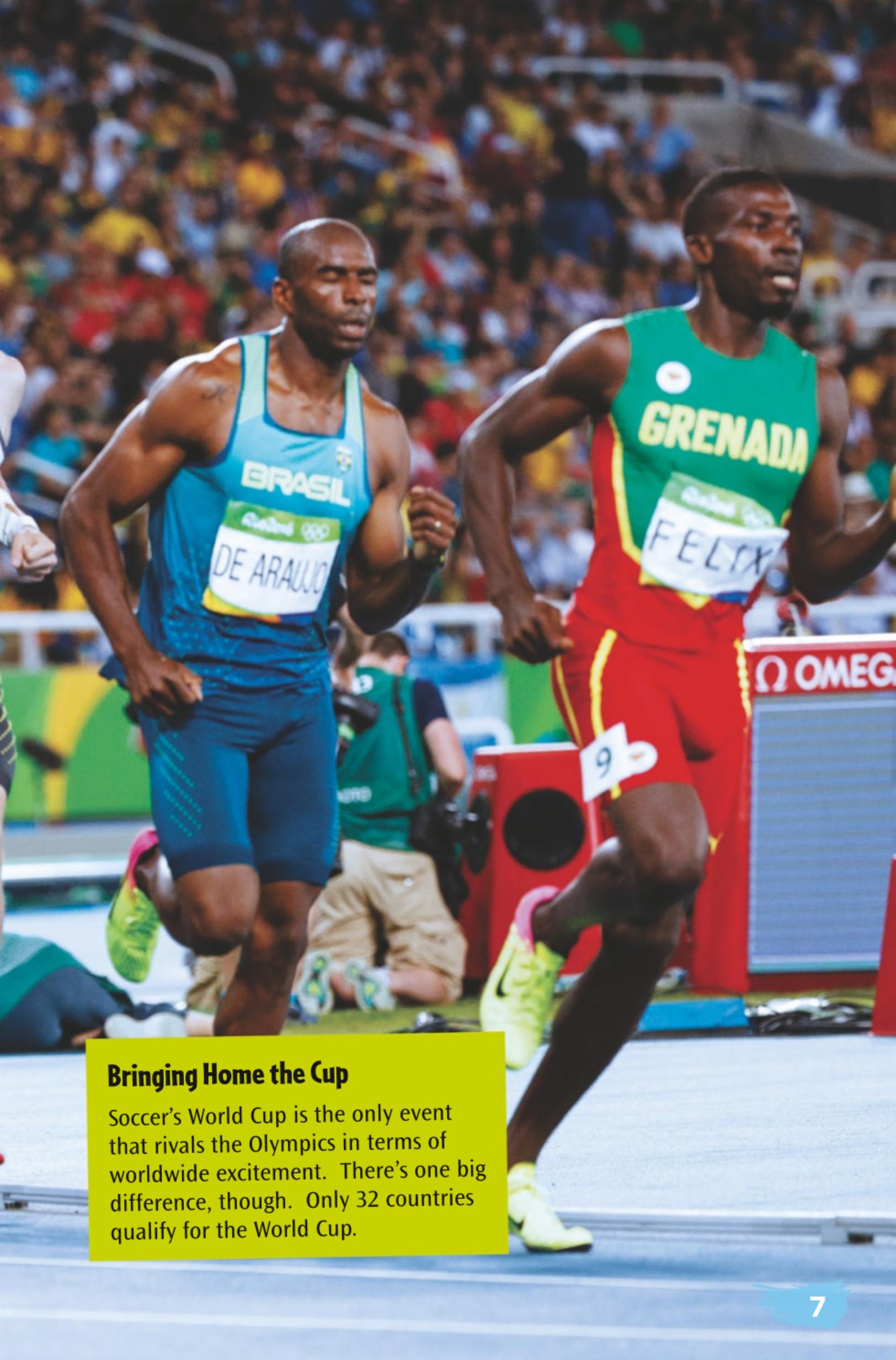


## A Global Gathering

Athletes from 14 nations entered the first Games. The Olympics have grown in size ever since. The 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro played host to athletes from more than 200 nations. Almost every country in the world sent at least one athlete to Rio.

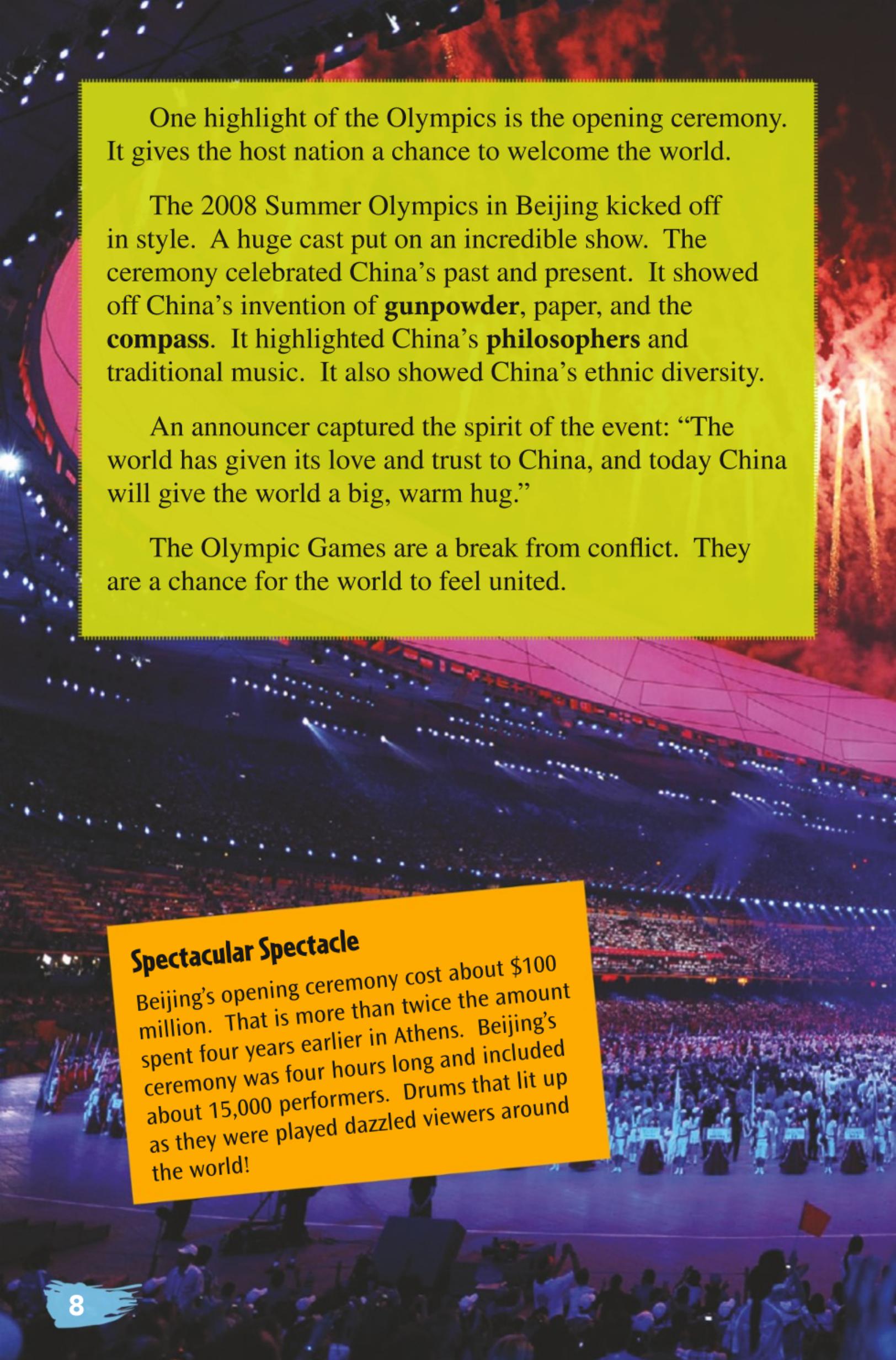
Spectators travel from around the world come to cheer at the Games, too. Half a million foreigners went to Rio to watch the Games. The city was happy to welcome such **diversity**.

About 3.5 billion people watched the Rio Games on television. That's half the people in the world! For comparison, about 100 million people watch the Super Bowl each year. More than any other event, the Olympics truly unite the planet.



### **Bringing Home the Cup**

Soccer's World Cup is the only event that rivals the Olympics in terms of worldwide excitement. There's one big difference, though. Only 32 countries qualify for the World Cup.



One highlight of the Olympics is the opening ceremony. It gives the host nation a chance to welcome the world.

The 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing kicked off in style. A huge cast put on an incredible show. The ceremony celebrated China's past and present. It showed off China's invention of **gunpowder**, paper, and the **compass**. It highlighted China's **philosophers** and traditional music. It also showed China's ethnic diversity.

An announcer captured the spirit of the event: "The world has given its love and trust to China, and today China will give the world a big, warm hug."

The Olympic Games are a break from conflict. They are a chance for the world to feel united.

### Spectacular Spectacle

Beijing's opening ceremony cost about \$100 million. That is more than twice the amount spent four years earlier in Athens. Beijing's ceremony was four hours long and included about 15,000 performers. Drums that lit up as they were played dazzled viewers around the world!



2008 Opening Ceremony  
in Beijing

**You've Just Finished your Free Sample**

**Enjoyed the preview?**

**Buy: <http://www.ebooks2go.com>**