



The 2022 Winter Paralympic Games

Every four years, the Winter Paralympics take place straight after the Winter Olympics. The Paralympics are for athletes who have a physical disability which means that these Games are organised in a different way to the Olympics and with fewer sports.

In 2022, the Winter Paralympics will take place in Beijing, China. They will begin on 4th March and end on 13th March.

Paralympic History

The first Olympic Games took place over 2,700 years ago in Greece but the first Paralympic Games did not occur until 1948; they were for injured soldiers from the Second World War to take part in. The purpose of the modern Paralympic Games is to create a sports competition for people with physical and mental impairments which would be equal to the Olympic Games.



Paralympic Athletes

The different athletes have a range of impairments so they may need to use equipment to allow them to participate; some may need to have a guide with them. A skier with impaired vision will need a guide to ski beside them to give them information about the ski slope.

There are clear guidelines regarding the type of equipment that can be used. This is to make sure that the competition remains fair and that no rules are broken.

There are six sports in the Winter Paralympics. The sports are in subcategories depending on whether the athletes are men or women, whether they will be sitting or standing and the type of impairment they have.

The Medals

The medals are designed with the Paralympic logo on one side and the front has a design involving a centre circle with 5 rings around it. The rings are similar to the ancient Chinese jade pendants. Inside the rings are patterns of clouds, ice and snow.

The words 'Beijing 2022 Paralympic Winter Games' have been engraved into the medal and are also written in **Braille** beads around the outer ring. The medal ribbon is red and gold and made from silk, and the box each medal is stored in is made from lacquer and bamboo.

The 2022 Winter Paralympics mascot is Shuey Rhon Rhon.

It is based on a glowing Chinese lantern.

Chinese lanterns have been a symbol of prosperity and celebration for thousands of years in China, while the paper doves and snow on his face represent peace and happiness.

It is hoped he will ignite warmth, courage and friendship among the para-athletes.

Braille – a reading system that uses raised dots so it can be read by people who are blind or have impaired vision.



Questions

1. Who took part in the first Paralympic Games? Tick one.

- ☐ soldiers from the Second World War
- ☐ soldiers from the First World War
- ☐ soldiers from Greece
- ☐ soldiers from China

2. Write a synonym for the word in bold.

The **purpose** of the Paralympic Games was to create a sports competition for disabled people which would be equal to the Olympic Games.

3. Why might some Paralympic athletes be allowed to use different equipment?

4. Which of the following words is closest in meaning to the word 'prosperity'? Tick one.

- ☐ bravery
- ☐ success
- ☐ friendship
- ☐ togetherness

5. Why might a skier with impaired vision in the Winter Paralympics need a guide to give them information about the slope?

6. What will **not** be displayed on the Winter Paralympic medals? Tick one.

- ☐ rings
- ☐ lanterns
- ☐ ice
- ☐ clouds

7. Tick all the true statements.

The first Paralympic Games took place in Greece.	
The mascot for the 2022 Winter Paralympics is called Shuey Rhon Rhon.	
The 2022 Winter Paralympics will finish on 13 th March.	
The medals have an illustration of a panda on one side.	

8. Which fact has interested you the most? Explain your answer.
