



The 2022 Winter Paralympic Games

Every four years, the Winter Olympics take place and are immediately followed by the Winter Paralympics. The Paralympics are for athletes who have a physical or mental impairment. This means that these Games are organised in a different way to the Olympics and involve fewer sports.

In 2022, the Winter Paralympics will take place in the host city of Beijing, China, after the Winter Olympics have ended. It will begin with an opening ceremony on 4th March and end with an elaborate closing ceremony on 13th March.

Paralympic History

The Paralympic Games originally began in 1948 for veterans of the Second World War, who were injured in service. The intention behind the Paralympic Games was to create a sports competition for people with physical and mental impairments that would be the equivalent to the Olympic Games.

Paralympic Athletes

Due to the range of impairments, some athletes will need different equipment to enable them to take part, or they may have guidance from others. A skier with impaired vision will require a guide to ski alongside them to provide information about the terrain. There are specific guidelines for the type of equipment that can be used to ensure fairness and that no rules are broken.

There are six sports for athletes to compete in during the Winter Paralympics. The sports are in

subcategories depending on whether the entrants are men or women, whether they will be sitting or standing and the type of disability they have. Within most of the sports, there are a number of different events. For example, the alpine skiing category includes events for slalom, giant slalom, super giant slalom and downhill. The biathlon combines cross-country skiing and shooting. This was part of military training in Norway before it became an official sport.



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 in style to ancient Chinese jade pendants. Inside the rings, are patterns of clouds, ice and snow, based on traditional Chinese patterns.

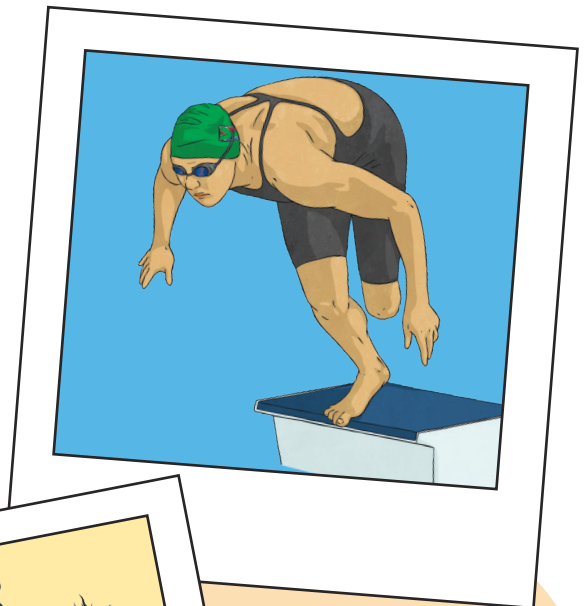
The words 'Beijing 2022 Paralympic Winter Games' have been engraved into the medal and are also written in Braille beads around the outer ring. The medal ribbon is red and gold and made from silk, and the box each medal is stored in is made from lacquer and bamboo.

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.

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



Questions

1. When will the 2022 Winter Paralympics begin?

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

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

3. Explain why you think the idea for the original Paralympic Games involved Second World War veterans?

4. Use a dictionary to write a definition for each of these words.

veteran: _____

terrain: _____

intention: _____

5. What is the name of the 2022 Winter Paralympics mascot?

6. Tick true or false for the following statements.

	True	False
Athletes will take part in the same event, regardless of whether they sit or stand.		
A skier who is blind will have a guide skier beside them.		
The Winter Paralympics is just for athletes who have been injured in war.		
The biathlon is a sport which includes shooting and skiing.		

7. Explain why the design of the medals is significant to the Winter Paralympics.

8. What benefits do you think the Winter Paralympics could have?
