

## Commonwealth Games Teacher's Notes A1+

In this **A1+** article, your pupils will learn some basic facts about the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth Games and Australia. They will compare the Commonwealth Games and the Olympics, and learn the names of some sports like netball, which is played in British schools.

### Vocabulary and structures

- sports, countries
- numbers and dates (revision)
- *like, instead of, every ...years*
- talking about the future
- reported speech (*I know / I don't know / I want to know what, when....*)

### Pronunciation

- commonwealth countries
- stress (*Australia, population, Olympics... compound nouns*)
- word groups

### Reading, writing, speaking

- We want pupils to be able to write a quiz at the end of the unit. Therefore, the activities are meant to lead them step-by-step towards their mission, which is one of the reasons why they include short questionnaires and gradual recaps.
- We suggest starting by having pupils talk about the flag in **Activities A-C**. Don't give them any answers at this stage. What they don't know will be found later on when reading the first part of the article. Correct any pronunciation mistakes individually, but do not make pupils repeat the whole country list, as it could quickly make them lose interest. Once this task has been completed, the class should be able to explain the flag.
- In **Activity D** they will compare the

Olympics and the Commonwealth Games and **Activity E** is a written recap which can also be used for individual oral practice, focusing on stress, intonation and word groups. Pupils are then asked to interact on the information they have found, either in groups or pairs. In this part of the activity, they should interrupt their partner(s) to react. **Activity F** is a follow up to Activity E, with new information added.

- In the following activities, pupils review what they have learnt up to now, and learn some more, in order to expand their quiz.

### Solutions

**A.2.** This is a flag. On this flag there is a gold globe on a blue sky. I think it represents the planet. Around the globe is the letter C.

**B.1. Possible answers:** I don't know / climate / catastrophe / Canada / China / Commonwealth...

**C.1. Possible answers:** I really don't know / I think it stands for Commonwealth.

2. Commonwealth

a. Fifty-three

b. English

c. 2.4 billion / 30% of the world's population

3. They were British colonies in the past = they are former British colonies.

4. Here are some examples: Canada is in North America, Kenya is in Africa, India is in Asia, Pakistan is in Asia, Australia is in

Oceania, the United Kingdom is in Europe. The letter C is around the globe because the Commonwealth countries are all over the world.

**D.** In the Olympics there are a lot of sports. In the Commonwealth Games there are a lot of sports. So, the Commonwealth Games are a multi-sport event.

The Olympics take place one year out of four. The Commonwealth Games take place one year out of four. So, we say that the Commonwealth Games take place every four years.

We can say that the Commonwealth Games are like the Olympics but there is a difference. There are only eighteen sports in the Commonwealth Games / There are only 53 countries / 70 teams, not all the countries in the world.

**E. Possible answers:** The Commonwealth Games are a multi-sport competition between former British colonies. They are like the Olympics but there are only eighteen sports. The flag shows a gold planet on a blue sky because the Commonwealth countries are all over the world. The letter C around the globe stands for Commonwealth.

**Possible interaction:**

“The Commonwealth Games are a multi-sport competition.”

“That’s right. There are eighteen sports.”

“I agree. They’re a bit like the Olympics.”

“Yes, but there are only 18 sports.”

“The flag is blue and yellow.”

“I don’t agree with you. It’s blue and gold.”

“The globe in the middle is the planet.”

“Yes, it is the planet because the Commonwealth countries are all over the world. The United States is in the Commonwealth.”

“I think you’ve made a mistake. You should say the US isn’t in the Commonwealth. Canada is.”

**F.1. Country:** Australia **State:** Queensland

**City:** Gold Coast **Dates:** 4-15 April

**2.** Sydney / Gold Coast / the Great Barrier Reef. Capital: Canberra

**3.** the east

**4.** Here is an example: In 2018, the Commonwealth Games take place in Gold City, in the east of Australia, between the fourth and the fifteenth of April. Gold Coast is in Queensland.

**G. Here are some examples:**

How many countries are there in the Commonwealth?

Can you name a Commonwealth country in Europe / America / India / Africa / Oceania?

When did the Games start?

When are the 2018 Games?

Where are the 2018 Games taking place?

**H.** Now we know that there are eighteen sports and seventy teams in 2018.

**I.1.** e.g. basketball, swimming, cycling, gymnastics, athletics...

**2.** netball, rugby sevens, squash, lawn bowls...

**3.a. Similarities:** a basket

**Differences:** Netball: No board behind the basket + you can’t run with the ball

**Basketball:** Board behind basket + you can run with the ball

**b. Similarities:** Oval ball, play on a pitch

**Differences:** Rugby sevens: 7 players; a match = 14 minutes

**Rugby (Union):** 15 players; a match = 80 minutes

**J.** It started from **England in March 2017** and it arrived in **Australia on December 25th 2017**. The torch arrived on **Sydney Harbor Bridge**.