

The Friendly Games in Australia A1+



The Commonwealth Games are in Australia from 4 to 15 April. They are in Gold Coast, a city in Queensland.

The Commonwealth consists of 53 countries. Most are former British colonies, and most have English as an official language. The Commonwealth is home to 2.2 billion people, 30% of the world's population.



Help

former (adj) = they were British colonies in the past.
billion (n) a thousand million (1,000,000,000)

The Commonwealth

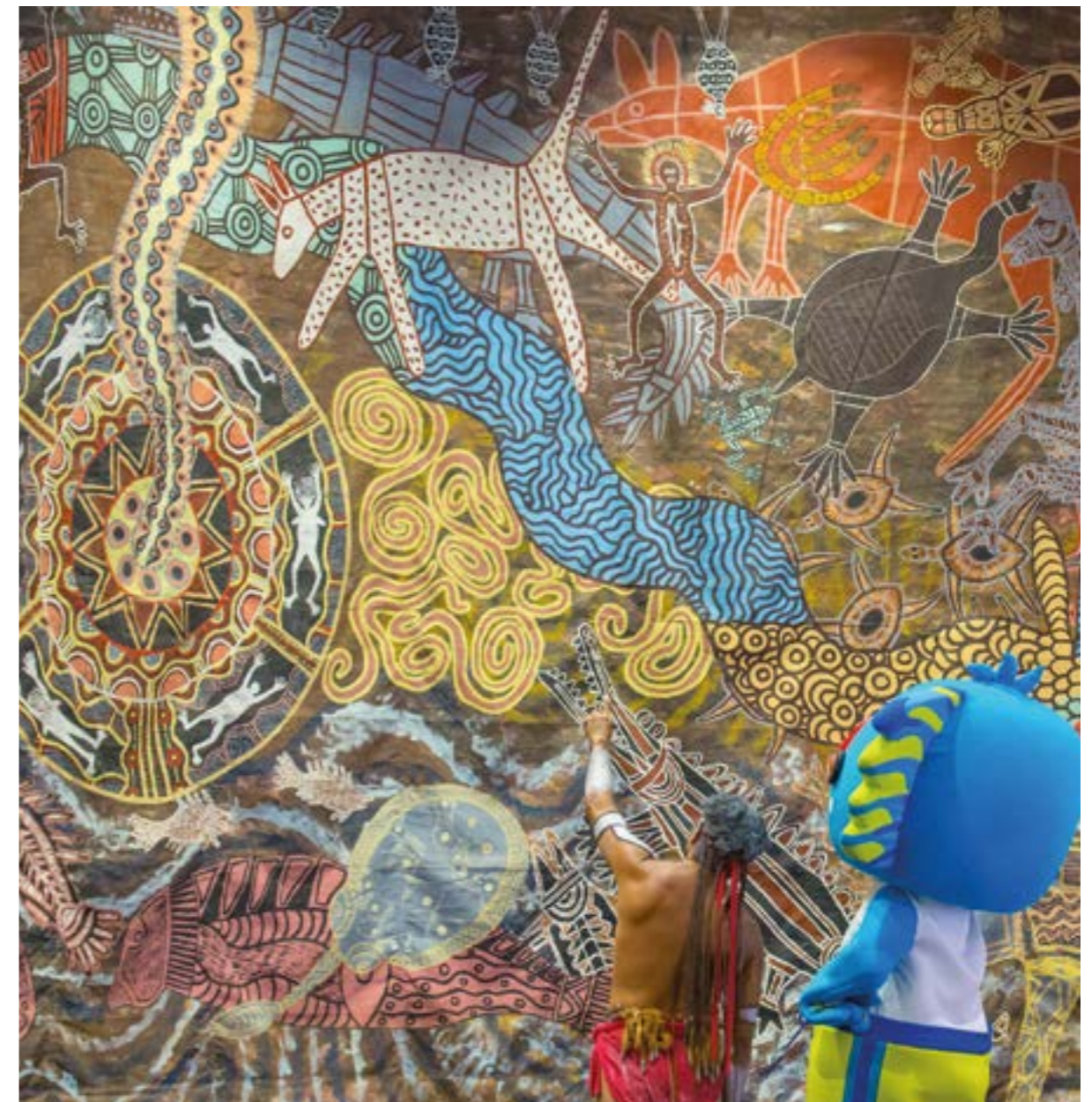


The Commonwealth Games is a multi-sport event like the Olympics. It takes place every four years. It started in 1930.

There are 53 countries in the Commonwealth, but there are 70 teams at the Games. Some countries, like the UK, have separate teams for the different parts: England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, plus Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man.



There are 18 sports this year: aquatics (swimming and diving), athletics, badminton, basketball, beach volleyball, boxing, cycling, gymnastics, hockey, lawn bowls, netball, rugby sevens, shooting, squash, table tennis, triathlon, weightlifting, wrestling. Seven sports have parasports versions for disabled athletes.

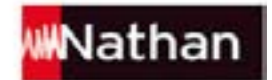


Help

disabled (adj) the preferred word for "handicapped"

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Rugby sevens is a fast version of normal rugby. There are seven players instead of 15, but they play on the normal pitch, so they run a lot. Matches are only 14 minutes instead of 80.



Netball is similar to basketball, but there is no board behind the basket and you can't run with the ball. Home team Australia won the gold medal in netball in the 2014 Games in Singapore. They hope to win again!



Schoolchildren waiting to see the Baton in Barbados, in the Caribbean.

The Queen's Baton Relay visits all 70 countries and territories participating in the Games. It started from Buckingham Palace on 13 March 2017: Commonwealth Day. It has a message from the Queen. It arrived in Australia on Christmas Day, 2017, then visited 100 communities in the country. Australian Commonwealth and Olympic swimming champion Ian Thorpe carried the torch up Sydney Harbor Bridge.