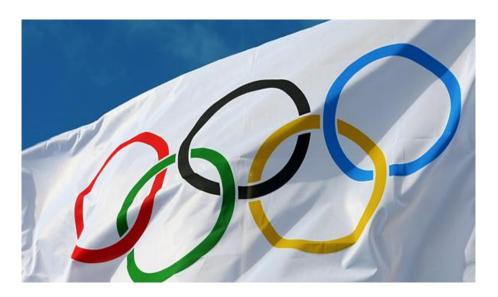


The Olympics Without Fans

LEVEL 3 ADVANCED



Japan has decided that foreign spectators will not be welcomed at this summer's Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics due to COVID-19 concerns.

The Olympics and Paralympics are scheduled for this summer after being postponed for a year. The Japanese government has decided not to invite fans from abroad because there are public concerns about the coronavirus and the detection of more **contagious** variants in many countries. It's also said that the opening ceremony of the **torch relay** will be held without spectators.

In the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea, international fans accounted for 20% of ticket sales. However, a recent poll showed that 77% of Japanese people did not want international visitors at the games amid fears over a **resurgence** of infections.

Japan has been hit hard by a third wave of the coronavirus pandemic, and Tokyo remains under a state of emergency.

Difficult words: **contagious** (spread from one person to another by contact), **torch relay** (when a ceremonial torch is carried and passed by torchbearers as a symbol of the Olympic message of peace and hope), **resurgence** (a new start or a sudden, great increase in activity).



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Discussion Questions

Topic Talk

- 1. Define the following words: contagious, torch relay and resurgence
- 2. Why were foreign spectators not welcomed in the Tokyo's summer Olympics and Paralympics?
- 3. What is the main concern of the general public in Japan that they did not want fans from abroad to witness the events?
- 4. According to a survey, how many Japanese people did not want foreign visitors at the games?

Express Your Thoughts

- 1. Did you approve of the government's decision of not allowing foreign spectators at the games?
- 2. Before the onslaught of the pandemic, did you try your luck to get tickets to watch the games?
- 3. Would you say that the Tokyo Summer Olympics was a success despite everything they had to urdergo?