



Olympic Lesson 1

Olympic '96



Skills: Reading and comprehension

You've probably never heard of OLYMPHILEX before—in fact, you may not even know how to pronounce the name. To begin, the name comes from “Olympic Philatelic Exhibition,” and it's pronounced “O - lym' -fa - lex.” The word **philatelic** (pronounced “fil - a - tel - ic”) comes from **philately** (“fa - lat' - ah - lee”), the formal name for the hobby of stamp collecting. The term **exhibition** comes from the word “exhibit,” which means to display or show something. At a philatelic exhibition (often simply called a “stamp show”) collectors show off pages of stamps which have been mounted on paper and placed in standing frames so people can walk by and view each exhibit. There are rules that philatelic exhibitors must follow, and a panel of judges reviews each exhibit and gives scores and awards to each.



What do stamps have to do with the Olympics? Since the beginning of the Olympics in ancient Greece, the games were a time to mark not only sports but arts and culture as well. For example, victors in the ancient Olympic Games were honored by poems, paintings, and sculpture by the great poets and artists of the day. Today, the charter of the International Olympic Committee (governing body of the Olympics) calls for an arts and cultural festival known as the Cultural Olympiad to be held prior to and during the Olympic Games.

OLYMPHILEX, officially known as the World Olympic and Sports Stamps Exhibition, was created in 1985 by the president of the International Olympic Committee. This followed a trial OLYMPHILEX at the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. Since then, OLYMPHILEX has been an official part of the Summer Olympic Games every four years, including the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, Korea, and the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain.

The dual themes of OLYMPHILEX are the Olympics and sports. This means that stamp exhibits have to focus on some aspect of the Olympic Games or on sports in general.



Although created originally as a philatelic exhibition, OLYMPHILEX '96 has been broadened to include coins, pins and other Olympic memorabilia. Olympic pins, in fact, have become a very popular collectible item, and a record number of new pins have been produced to mark the 1996 Summer Olympics.

OLYMPHILEX '96 is being held July 18 - August 3 at the Merchandise Mart in downtown Atlanta, less than a mile from many of the major events of the Summer Games. In addition to the coin and pin collections, over 1,000 frames (each holding 16 pages of mounted stamp displays) will show Olympic and sports stamp exhibits from around the world. Additionally, post offices from many countries will be present, plus stamp dealers with stamps and supplies for sale. One special feature of OLYMPHILEX '96 will be the **Savvy Center**, an area for novice collectors with activities and assistance—plus free stamps for young collectors. Finally, Izzy, mascot of the Atlanta Olympics, will try to come by the Savvy Center to greet everyone and pose for pictures. All this, plus the fact that admission is free, should make OLYMPHILEX '96 a cool place to be throughout the Olympics—especially during the heat of the day.

Looking to the future, the next OLYMPHILEX will be held in the year 2000 in conjunction with Olympic Games 2000 in Sydney, Australia.

Applying What You Have Read

Handout A is a crossword puzzle about OLYMPHILEX '96. Most—but not all—of the clues are answered in the material you have just read. In other cases, the clues will be about things you probably have seen on television or heard your parents or friends talk about. See how well you can do!

© OLYMPHILEX '96



Imagine two to three times the number of frames shown here filled with Olympics and sports stamp exhibits! That's what will be at OLYMPHILEX '96.

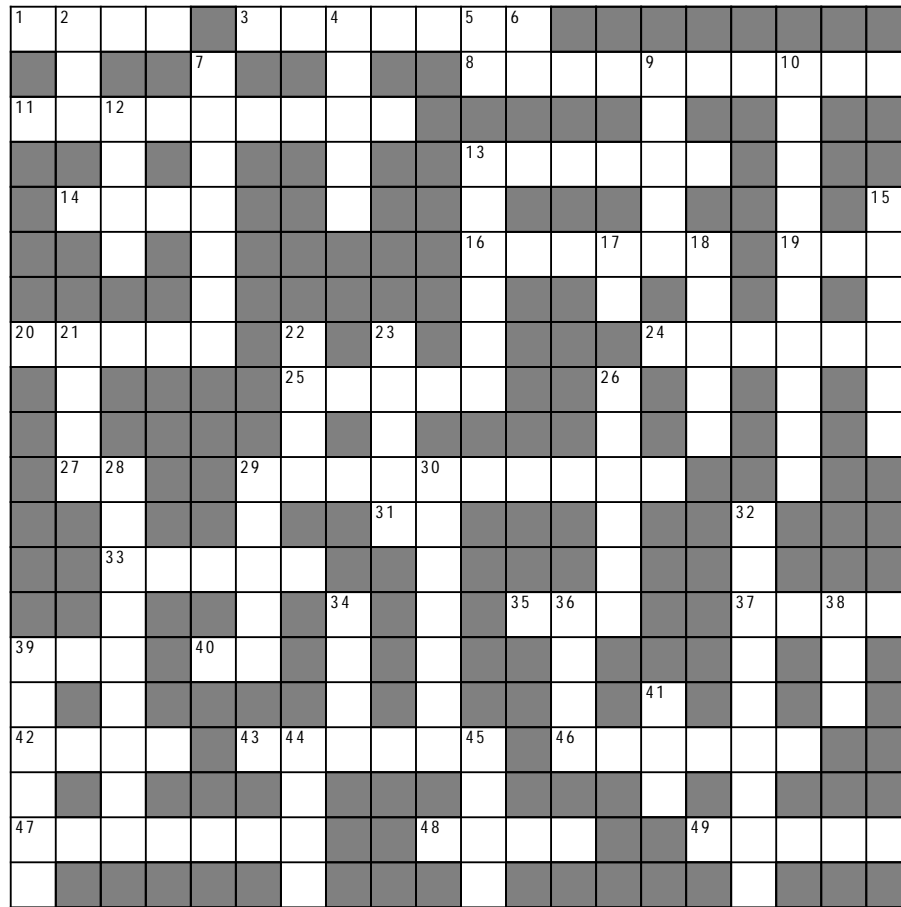


Each frame holds 16 pages of mounted stamps, along with the story of the exhibition.



Most stamp shows have youth areas. But the OLYMPHILEX "Savvy Center"—a combination youth/novice area—will be much larger.

Olympilex Crossword Puzzle



Across

Down

- 1 Condition of most Atlanta-area hotels during Olympics
- 3 Host city of 1996 Summer Olympics
- 8 Exhibition of Olympic collectibles held during Summer Olympics
- 11 European city which hosted 1992 Summer Olympics
- 13 Host city of Olympic Games 2000
- 14 Number of years between Olympics
- 16 Month 1996 Summer Olympics ends
- 19 Short for "Internet"—ACOG has an online site on this
- 20 Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority
- 24 Nation where Olympics originated
- 25 Olympic symbol
- 27 State where most Olympics events are being held (2 letters)
- 29 100-year anniversary celebration
- 31 Former
- 33 Nation which hosted 1992 Summer Olympics
- 35 American Philatelic Society (cosponsor of OLYMPHILEX)
- 37 1996 Summer Olympics mascot
- 39 After track events, athletes will be gasping for this
- 40 Nation hosting 1996 Summer Olympics
- 42 Month 1996 Summer Olympics begins
- 43 Allows entrance to an event (as with a ticket)
- 46 One of the two themes of OLYMPHILEX
- 47 Where opening and closing Olympic ceremonies are held
- 48 Award Olympic athletes seek
- 49 Brought from Greece, Olympic _____ will burn brightly over Atlanta

- 2 Olympic soccer finals are played at this university
- 4 People will be standing in these everywhere at the Olympics
- 5 Preposition
- 6 State west of Georgia hosting some soccer rounds
- 7 State hosting 1996 Summer Olympics
- 9 These were written to honor victors in ancient Olympic Games
- 10 U.S. city which hosted 1984 Summer Olympics (2 words)
- 12 Better have one reserved before coming to Olympics
- 13 You'll find lots of these on exhibit at Olympilex
- 15 Georgia city and Greek city with Olympic ties
- 17 United Nations (postal authorities will be at OLYMPHILEX)
- 18 Carried across the U.S. prior to the Summer Olympics
- 21 Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games
- 22 Admission price for OLYMPHILEX
- 23 Olympic goal is to _____ world in spirit of athletic competition
- 26 Baseball team that will use new Olympic Stadium in 1997
- 28 Country hosting Olympic Games 2000
- 29 One of three types of collectibles exhibited at OLYMPHILEX
- 30 Term for mounted collection organized for viewing
- 32 Hobby of stamp collecting
- 34 Group of athletes from a country
- 36 One of the Olympic collectibles exhibited at OLYMPHILEX
- 38 Atlanta attraction expected to host many Olympics visitors
- 39 To change or move around
- 41 International Olympics Committee
- 44 Olympic basketball _____ will be played in the Georgia _____
- 45 A philatelic exhibition is often known as a "stamp _____"