LEARNING INDEPENDENTLY?
Check out this week's introduction video
bit.ly/NewsCycle

KEEN TO HAVE YOUR SAY?
Share your opinion on this week's News Cycle
bit.ly/NewsCycleFeb23

TOKYO OLYMPICS
PART 1: IN THE KNOW
In 2013, Tokyo celebrated the news that it would host the 2020 Olympic games. The organisers saw it as an opportunity to show off Japan's strength and recovery following a devastating earthquake in 2011. However, things have not gone to plan.

In 2015, the plans to build a $2 billion stadium were scrapped and the Olympic logo had to be changed following accusations of plagiarism. In March 2020, with just four months to go, the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic games were postponed until July 2021 due to the covid-19 pandemic.

Then, in February 2021, Yoshiro Mori, the Tokyo Olympics chief, was forced to resign for making derogatory comments about the women in his team. Days later, another earthquake hit the region of Fukushima - where the Olympic torch is due to begin its journey. For some, this could be a symbolic warning that things won't go to plan.

Because of the ongoing pandemic, people in Japan have begun to question whether the games should go ahead at all. In a recent survey by the Kyodo news agency, 80% people surveyed in Japan thought they should either be postponed again or cancelled altogether. Scepticism is also growing amongst athletes, sponsors and volunteers.

However, event organisers have not backed down. The Olympic games are seen by many as a global celebration that can boost the host country. Competing on the Olympic stage is often a highlight of an athlete's career. The head of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Thomas Bach, recently said, “We are not speculating whether the games will take place, we are working on how the games will take place.”

But with only five months to go, the IOC still has a marathon ahead: will it be able to organise a safe event and get people back on side?

Want to know more? Look here: tokyo2020.org/en
CHALLENGE: how is this issue developing in the news?

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?
- Who is involved? (people, countries, groups etc)
- Where did this happen? Is it still happening?

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?
- How has this been going on for?

NEWS SCALE
Is this news story a big concern for you? Mark your opinion on the scale below with an X. What about an elite athlete? Where would they put their X? What about a sports journalist?

SMALL CONCERN
BIG CONCERN

PERSPECTIVE FLIP
What would Person A think about this issue? How are they affected by the issue? Now flip to Person B and think about the same questions. Are any perspectives missing?

A resident of Tokyo
A representative from WHO
C
(World Health Organisation)

LINKS
- How does this issue link to...?
- A school subject?
- A different news story?
- Your life?
- NEWS CONCEPT: democracy?