

A stylized illustration featuring three athletes: a runner in the upper right, an archer on the left, and a weightlifter at the bottom. They are surrounded by thick, expressive brushstrokes in red, blue, green, and yellow. The background is white.

**The
Economist**

**EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION**

TOKYO OLYMPICS

PART 1: IN THE KNOW

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

PLAGIARISM =
when something is copied
without permission

DEROGATORY =
disrespectful

SCEPTICISM =
When you doubt or question
the truth of something

NEWS CYCLE

WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR?



The games must go on?

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.

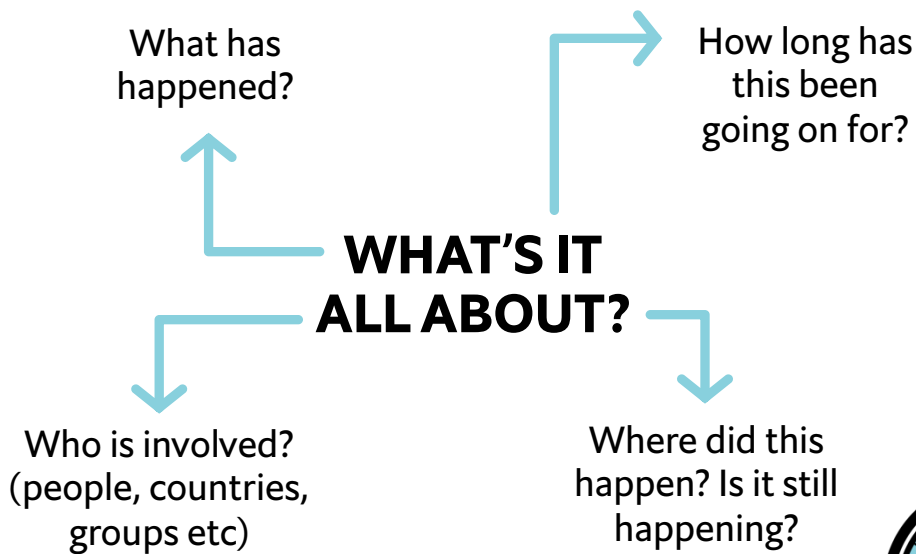
Then, in February 2021, Yoshiro Mori, the Tokyo Olympics chief, was forced to resign for making derogatory comments about the women in his team. Days later, another earthquake hit the region of Fukushima - where the Olympic torch is due to begin its journey. For some, this could be a symbolic warning 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."

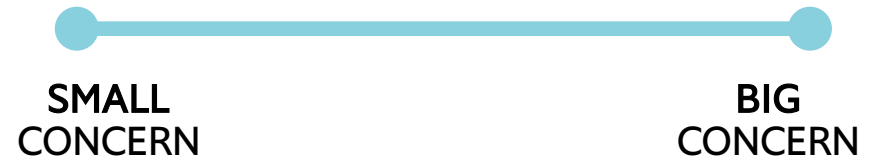
But with only five months to go, the IOC still has a marathon ahead: will it be able to organise a safe event and get people back on side?

Want to know more? Look here: tokyo2020.org/en



NEWS SCALE

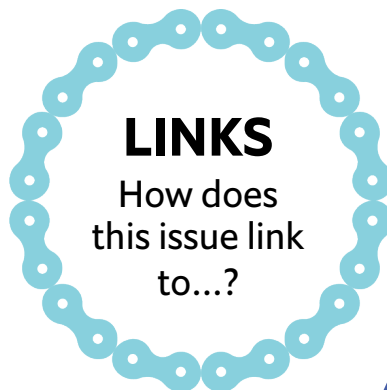
Is this news story a big concern for you? Mark your opinion on the scale below with an X. What about an elite athlete? Where would they put their X? What about a sports journalist?



A school subject?

Your life?

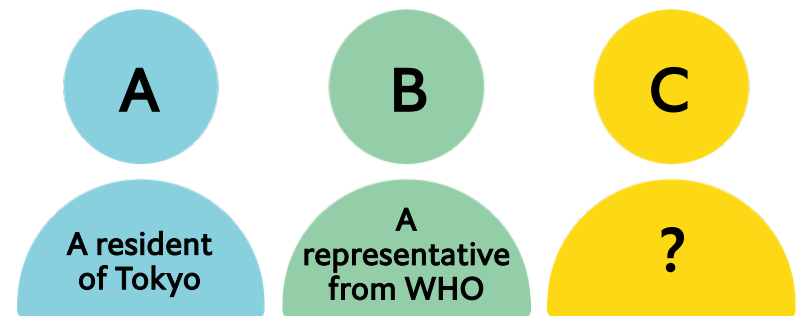
A different news story?



NEWS CONCEPT: democracy?

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?



(World Health Organisation)

CHALLENGE: how is this issue developing in the news?