

The Invictus Games

The Invictus Games is a sporting competition which was founded in London in 2014. It was instigated by Prince Harry after he had seen something similar in America called The Warrior Games. The uniqueness about the Invictus Games is that all the competitors are men and women who have experienced life-changing injuries as a result of combat in the armed forces.

What is 'Invictus'?

The word 'Invictus' means 'unconquered'. This title was chosen because the competitors have not let their injuries hold them back. In fact, many of these competitors have achieved fantastic things at the games. The aim behind the Invictus Games is to highlight the spirit of these people, not to pity them, and to recognise their contributions in serving their country.

What Happens at the Games?

The first Invictus Games was in London in September 2014. Over four days, 400 competitors from 13 countries took part. This was only two years after the London Olympics and thousands of people came to watch at London's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The Invictus Games are very much like the Paralympics and include events such as: athletics (running, jumping and throwing), archery, indoor rowing, golf, sledge hockey, powerlifting, road cycling, sitting volleyball, swimming, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair rugby and a driving challenge.

Also, following the same format as the Olympics and Paralympics, there are opening and closing ceremonies as well as gold, silver and bronze medals for winners and runners up. And...of course Prince Harry is there to make a speech and oversee the games.

What about the Future?

'The Invictus Foundation' was established to take charge of making sure the games grow, develop and continue. There have already been two Games – London 2014 and Orlando 2016. The next Invictus Games will be in Toronto, Canada in 2017 and there are already plans to take it to other countries after that. The Invictus Games has already grown and developed since Prince Harry's idea in 2013, London 2014 was a success and 2017's games will see 600 competitors from 16 countries. Long may the games continue to grow and thrive.

You can find out more at: <https://invictusgamesfoundation.org> and www.invictusgames2017.com

Fact File

- The motto for the Games is "I AM," which shows that a person can be ill or injured but still be undefeatable.
- In 2013 Prince Harry trekked across Antarctica to raise awareness for wounded soldiers.
- Harry was in the British Army himself for ten years, including being in Afghanistan.

The logo for the Invictus Games, featuring the words 'INVICTUS' and 'GAMES' in a bold, sans-serif font. The letters 'I', 'A', and 'M' in 'GAMES' are highlighted in yellow, while the rest of the text is grey. The logo is set against a black background.

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Questions

1. Do you think that 'Invictus' is a good name for the event and why?
2. Why do you think we need these games?
3. What sort of adjective is 'life-changing' using a hyphen?
4. Why has the author used brackets in paragraph four?
5. What gave Prince Harry the idea to start the games?
6. What is the name of the group in charge of the games and making it grow?
7. What does the word 'uniqueness' mean in the paragraph one?
8. Why do you think Prince Harry want to help these people who compete?
9. Name three similarities between the Invictus Games and the Olympics.
10. Should we feel sorry for the competitors? And why?

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The Invictus Games Answers

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1. Do you think that 'Invictus' is a good name for the event and why?

Open ended but should include reference to the word meaning 'unconquered' and life-changing injuries from combat.

2. Why do you think we need these games?

Open ended but should include something about recognising the contribution the servicemen and women have made as well as helping them overcome injuries.

3. What sort of adjective is 'life-changing' using a hyphen?

A compound adjective (made up of two words).

4. Why has the author used brackets in paragraph four?

To explain which organisations are in the armed forces in case you don't know.

5. What gave Prince Harry the idea to start the games?

He saw the Warrior Games (in America).

6. What does the word 'uniqueness' mean in the paragraph one?

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7. Why do you think Prince Harry want to help these people who compete?

He was in the armed forces himself and has been close to people like this.

8. Name three similarities between the Invictus Games and the Olympics.

Any three from: Opening ceremony, closing ceremony, medals, specific sports included, it's a sporting competition, it's been held in London, both held at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

9. Should we feel sorry for the competitors? And why?

Discuss: No. The games are about overcoming injuries and not letting them conquer you.