

What's the Problem?



OLYMPIC MASCOTS

Mascots Chosen at Former Olympic Sites

Munich (Germany) 1972



Images: © IOC



Waldi

Waldi was the first official mascot in the history of the Olympic Games. He is a dachshund, a very popular animal in Bavaria, famed for its endurance, tenacity and agility. The mascot features several different colours: its head and tail are light blue, with a striped body featuring at least three of the six Olympic colours.

Los Angeles 1984

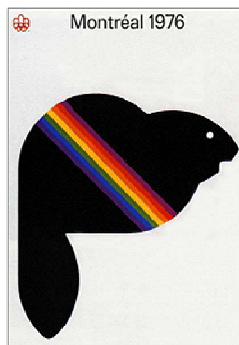


Images: © IOC

Sam

Sam looks friendly and cheerful in order not to frighten children and to embody the optimism of the Olympic spirit. With his hat featuring the design of the national flag, he shows that he is part of American culture.

Montreal (Canada) 1976



Images: © IOC



Amik

Amik appears with a red strip featuring the Montreal Games logo, which symbolises the ribbon traditionally used for the winners' medals. There is also a version with a multi-coloured ribbon, in the colours of the Organising Committee.

Seoul (South Korea) 1988



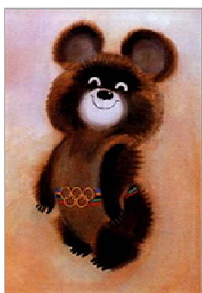
Images: © IOC



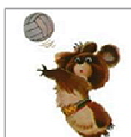
Hodori

The "Ho" of Hodori comes from the Korean word meaning tiger, while "Dori" is a common masculine diminutive. The name was chosen from 2,295 competition entries submitted by the general public.

Moscow (Russia) 1980



Images: © IOC



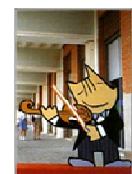
Misha

The bear is a familiar animal in Russia, appearing in many popular stories, songs and poems. Misha wears a striped belt around his waist made up of five bands in the colours of the Olympic rings. The belt consists of the five rings in a single colour.

Barcelona (Spain) 1992



Images: © IOC



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Cobi

The name Cobi is an allusion to COOB'92, an abbreviation of the Barcelona'92 Olympic Organising Committee. The name was chosen because it is simple and easy to pronounce in most languages.

Atlanta 1996



Images: © IOC



Izzy

Originally called "Whatizit", the name Izzy was chosen by 32 American children aged from 7 to 12 from among the following five names: Kirby, Starz, Zack, Gleamer and Izzy. This shortlist was produced from the more than 3,300 suggestions from children in 16 different countries.

Beijing (China) 2008



Images: © IOC

Beibei, Jingjing, Huanhuan, Yingying, Nini

Each name rhymes by repeating the same syllable: a traditional Chinese way of showing affection to children. Linking the five names forms the sentence "Welcome to Beijing" (Bei Jing Huan Ying Nin). The mascots form the "Fuwa", which translates as "good-luck dolls".

Sydney (Australia) 2000



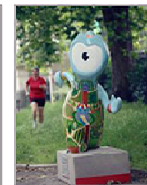
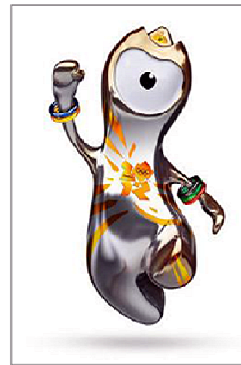
Images: © IOC



Syd, Olly and Millie

Syd is a reference to Sydney, Olly to Olympic and Millie to the new millennium.

London (England) 2012



Images: © LOCOG



Wenlock

Wenlock takes his name from the town of Much Wenlock in Shropshire, which still hosts the traditional Much Wenlock Games. These were one of Pierre de Coubertin's sources of inspiration for the modern Olympic Games.

Athens (Greece) 2004



Images: © IOC



Phevos and Athena

Phevos and Athena. The names of the two mascots are a reference to two gods of Olympus: "Phoebos" is another name for Apollo, the god of light and music; "Athena" is the goddess of wisdom and protector of the city of Athens. The two mascots thus symbolise the link between Ancient Greece and the Olympic Games of the modern era.



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