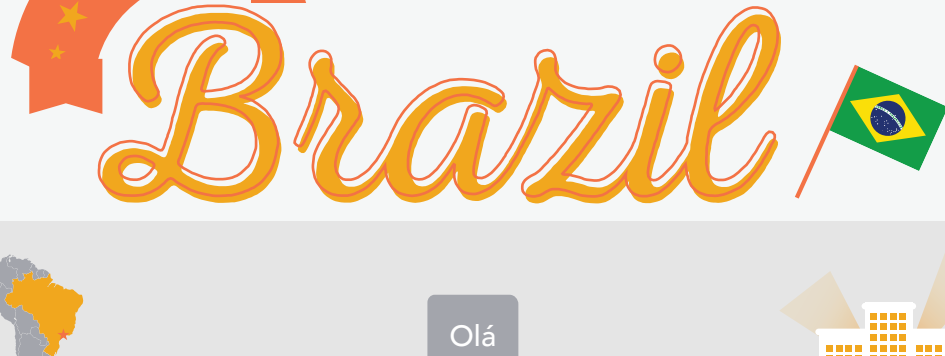




# Olympics & Language

The 2016 Summer Olympics are officially underway, bringing a whopping **11,000 athletes** from more than **200 countries** to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to compete for one of the **2,102 medals** that will be

awarded at the XXXI Olympiad.



## Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Host of the 2016 Summer Olympics

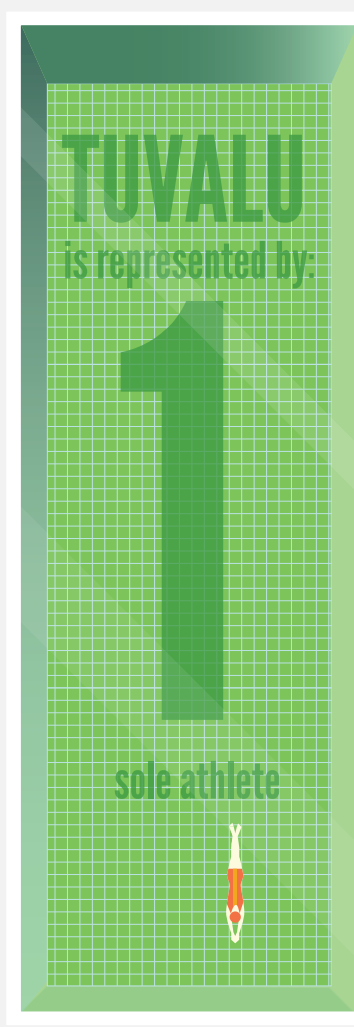
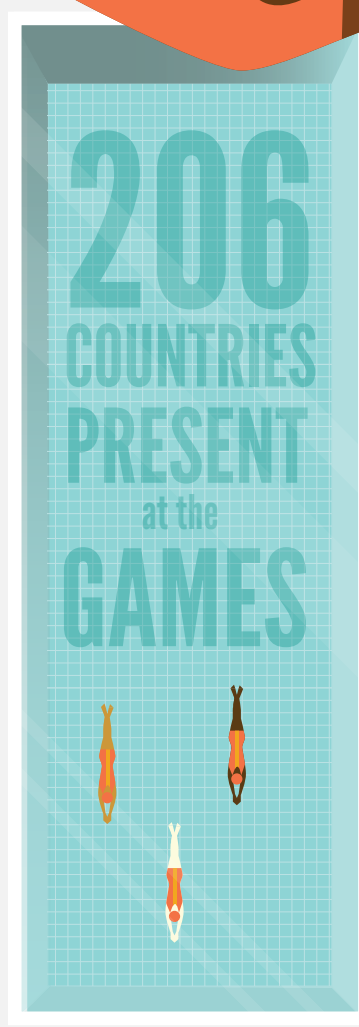
## Portuguese

Brazil's Primary language

## Marvelous!

Rio de Janeiro is commonly referred to as '**Cidade Maravilhosa**' which means Marvelous City in Portuguese.

## Dive into the Stats



The official languages of Tuvalu, a country with only one representative, are **Tuvaluan** and **English**. Tuvaluan is estimated to be spoken by only **13,000** people worldwide.

## Several countries at the 2016 Olympics have many official languages including:



### South Africa,

nicknamed "rainbow nation" because of its diversity, has 11 official languages:

Afrikaans, English, Ndebele, Northern Sotho, Sotho, Swazi, Tsonga, Tswana, Venda, Xhosa and Zulu



### Zimbabwe,

which currently holds the world record with 16 official languages:

Chewa, Chibarwe, English, Kalanga, Koisan, Nambya, Ndaou, Ndebele, Shangani, Shona, Sign Language, Sotho, Tonga, Tswana, Venda and Xhosa

## Kicking Language Barriers to the Curb



The women of South Africa's football team - nicknamed 'Banyana Banyana' which means 'The Girls' in Nguni - speak several languages, including Zulu, Sotho and Xhosa. According to the team's head coach, to combat the language barrier on the field, the team communicates in English.

## Opening Ceremony



At the Opening Ceremony, countries are introduced in alphabetical order, except:



### Greece

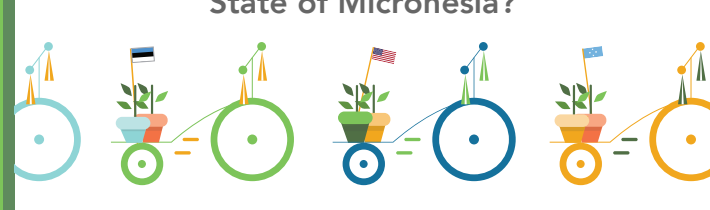
always walks first, as the founder of the Olympics

### The Host Country

always walks last



So why was the United States (which falls near the end of the alphabet) introduced so early this year, walking in between Estonia and Federated State of Micronesia?



Countries are introduced in alphabetical order based on the **host country's official language**. In this case, **Portuguese**.

In Portuguese, United States is "**Estados Unidos da América**," alphabetically landing at **#70** between the Federated States of Micronesia (Estados Federados da Micronésia) and Estonia (Estônia).

Other countries that were noticeably "out of order" include **South Africa (África do Sul)** and **Germany (Alemanha)**, both of which were introduced in the top 5.

## Learn the local lingo:



Gold Medal: Medalha de Ouro



Silver Medal: Medalha de Prata



Bronze Medal: Medalha de Bronze

## Books of the World

The Rio de Janeiro state government invited Olympic athletes, officials, journalists and other Olympic guests to share the language and culture of their home countries with Rio by donating a book to the State Park Library (Biblioteca Parque Estadual).



## The mobile app is available in 7 languages.

Portuguese, English, Spanish, French, Chinese, Japanese, Korean

## Language Accessibility

French

Spanish

English

Portuguese

The Rio Olympic Website is available in 4 languages.

## FRENCH & ENGLISH

are the official languages of the Olympic games.

8,000

volunteer translators and interpreters were recruited to bridge the language barrier at the Olympic games.

The **recruiting process** began in **2014**



## FRENCH

is the official language for the 2016 Olympic games in tribute to the victims of the recent Paris terror attacks.

Interpreters and translators will deliver services in more than **30 languages**, some of which include:

English, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Hungarian, Arabic, Farsi, Thai, Romanian, Amharic, Swahili, Belarusian, Slovak, Turkish, Indonesian (Bahasa), Croatian, Czech, Lithuanian, Polish, Serbian, Urdu, Greek, Finnish and Filipino.



www.helloglobo.com

1. "Olympics Athletes"  
<https://www.rio2016.com/en/athletes>

2. "Olympics Countries"  
<https://www.rio2016.com/en/countries/#favorite-countries>

3. "South Africa footballers defeat language barrier and come together for 'Rainbow nation'"  
<https://www.rio2016.com/en/news/south-africa-footballers-defeat-language-barrier>

4. "Rio Olympics opening ceremony's Parade of Nations order by Brazil's Portuguese - a \$1 billion headache"  
<http://www.foxsports.com.au/olympics/rio-olympics-opening-ceremonys-parade-of-nations-order-by-brazils-portuguese-a-1-billion-headache/news-story/2a1b64f9185e56e81fda0997d99b14f>

5. "French announced as official language for 2016 Olympics"  
<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/545556/sports/othersports/french-announced-as-official-language-for-2016-olympics>

6. "Rio 2016 looking for 8,000 volunteers with language skills to be 'voice of the Games'"  
<https://www.rio2016.com/en/news/rio-2016-looking-for-8-000-volunteers-with-language-skills-to-be-voice-of-the-games>