

Koreas Share Handshake at Olympic Games Opening



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VOCABULARY

- **athlete** - [ath-leet] n. a person who is trained or good at sports
ex. *Yuzuru Hanyu is the biggest **athlete** in Japan.*
- **stadium** - [stey-dee-uhm] n. a large building with many rows of seats for sporting events
ex. *Japan's new national **stadium** is being built to host the 2020 Games*
- **alphabetical** - [al-fuh-bet-i-kuhl] adj. arranged in the order of the letters of the alphabet
ex. *Your family names were **arranged** in alphabetical order.*
- **resonate** - [rez-uh-neyt] v. to have a particular meaning or importance
ex. *Her experiences in life **resonates** powerfully with me.*
- **confidant** - [kon-fi-dant] n. a trusted person
ex. *My mom is my greatest **confidant**.*

A sister of North Korea's leader shook hands with the South Korean president as representatives of the two countries sat together at the opening of the 2018 PyeongChang Olympics.

Sitting nearby was Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the head of the United States delegation, Vice President Mike Pence. On Thursday, the two men met at the prime minister's home in Japan. They spoke of strengthening the military alliance between their countries to answer threats by North Korea.

As is Olympic tradition, Greece, which held the first modern Olympic Games in 1896, led the parade of **athletes** into the sports **stadium** in Pyeongchang. Other countries followed in **alphabetical** order, based the Korean alphabet.

Athletes from the two Koreas marched in together under a white flag, which has a blue image in the shape of the Korean peninsula. The ceremonies took place as the world looks for clues about the peninsula's future while North Korea continues its nuclear and missile activities. Before the ceremony, South Korean officials released a statement from President Moon Jae-in. He said, "Athletes from the two Koreas will work together for victory, and that will **resonate** with and be remembered in the hearts of people around the world as a sign of peace."

The North has sent nearly 500 people to the PyeongChang Games. Its delegation includes government officials, athletes, artists and cheerleaders. More than 2,900 athletes from 92 countries will compete in the games, making it the biggest Winter Olympics to date.

One member of the North Korean delegation is Kim Yo Jong. She is the sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, and believed to be his closest **confidant**. She is also the first member of North Korea's ruling family to visit the South since the Korean War. Kim Jong Un himself has not left North Korea or met any head of state since 2011 - the year he became the country's leader after the death of his father.

Officially, Kim Yo Jong, at the age of 30, is just a member of a delegation led by 90-year-old Kim Yong Nam. She and the rest of the North's delegation are to join Moon for a meal on Saturday.

The United States has repeatedly warned its ally South Korea to continue pressure on the North Korean government. But Vice President Pence has not ruled out a meeting with North Korean officials during his visit to South Korea. The vice president was asked about the possibility of U.S.-North Korea talks before leaving Monday on his six-day Asia trip. "Let me say President Trump has said he always believes in talking, but I haven't requested any meeting," Pence told reporters. He added, "But we'll see what happens."

Comprehension Questions:

1. What did Prime Minister Abe and Vice- President Pence talk when they met in Japan?
2. How many countries will compete in the games and how were they arranged during the parade?
3. Who is Kim Yu Jong?
4. What did Vice- President Pence say about the possibility of U.S.- North Korea talks before this event ends?
5. Do you watch olympic games?
6. What do you think is the true essence of olympic games?
7. Can North and South Korea set aside their differences and work together for victory? If so, why?
8. What updates have you heard about your country's preparation for the coming 2020 olympic games?