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## Naomi Osaka lights flame to open Tokyo Olympics – 27th July, 2021

### Level 4

Tennis superstar Naomi Osaka lit the 2020 Tokyo Olympics flame. The Games officially started, albeit a year late. A possible fifth wave of Covid-19 has put in doubt whether or not they would go ahead. The pandemic has greatly affected the event. There are no fans and several athletes have withdrawn after testing positive. Japan hopes the Games will showcase its culture to the world. The Opening Ceremony ended at midnight with a spectacular fireworks show.

Only 950 people attended the opening ceremony, in a venue with a capacity of 68,000. Japan's Emperor Naruhito declared the Games officially open. The IOC president said it is different from what we had imagined, but we should "cherish this moment because finally we are all here together". He called the Games "a moment of hope". Naomi Osaka said lighting the flame was: "The greatest athletic achievement and honour I will ever have in my life."

### Level 5

Tennis superstar Naomi Osaka has lit the flame to open the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. The Games officially started, albeit a year late. Fears of a fifth wave of Covid-19 in Japan's capital meant it was touch and go whether or not they would go ahead. The pandemic has greatly affected the event. It now takes place with no fans and several athletes withdrawing after testing positive. Japan still hopes the Games will showcase its culture to the world. The Opening Ceremony ended around midnight with a spectacular fireworks show that illuminated Tokyo's night sky.

Games organizers said 950 people attended the opening ceremony, in a venue with a capacity of 68,000. Attendees included Japan's Emperor Naruhito and the US First Lady Jill Biden. Emperor Naruhito declared the Games officially open. Olympics President Thomas Bach said: "It is very different from what all of us had imagined, but let us cherish this moment because finally we are all here together. Today is a moment of hope." Naomi Osaka tweeted about lighting the flame. She said it was: "Undoubtedly the greatest athletic achievement and honour I will ever have in my life."

### Level 6

Tennis superstar Naomi Osaka has lit the flame to finally open the 2020 Olympic Games. After a tumultuous year, the Tokyo Olympics Opening Ceremony officially got under way, albeit a year late. Because of fears of a fifth wave of Covid-19 cases in Japan's capital, it has been touch and go as to whether or not the Summer Games would go ahead. The pandemic has already greatly impacted the event. It now takes place with no fans in attendance and several athletes having to withdraw after testing positive. Japan still hopes the Games will showcase its culture to the world. The Opening Ceremony drew to a close around midnight in Japan with a spectacular fireworks display illuminating Tokyo's night sky.

According to Tokyo 2020 organizers, 950 people attended the opening ceremony. This is in a venue with a capacity of 68,000. Attendees included Japan's Emperor Naruhito, the US First Lady Jill Biden and French President Emmanuel Macron. Emperor Naruhito declared the Games officially open. International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach said: "It is very different from what all of us had imagined, but let us cherish this moment because finally we are all here together. Today is a moment of hope." Naomi Osaka later tweeted about her excitement at lighting the flame. She said it was: "Undoubtedly the greatest athletic achievement and honour I will ever have in my life."