



Before reading

1 Scegli la definizione giusta per *common*.

- a refined
 b come here
 c belongs to everyone

Scegli la definizione giusta per *wealth*.

- a fit
 b riches
 c poverty

The Commonwealth

86 MP3

The Commonwealth of Nations was founded in 1931. In the Victorian period a quarter of the world came under British rule and was part of the British Empire. India was one of the first countries which, despite gaining independence in 1947, decided to remain within the Commonwealth.

Today the Commonwealth of Nations is a family of 53 nations in every continent. This association of nations promotes¹ democracy and both rich and poor countries have an equal voice. The Commonwealth encourages good Government, economic development and racial equality.

They believe in consultation and cooperation especially in matters² concerning³ human rights. Members want fair⁴ and free elections. These nations share a common language (English) which helps them work together.



Comprehension

86 MP3

2 Ascolta e leggi i testi, poi rispondi alle domande.

- How many nations make up the Commonwealth?
- What language do they use when they work together?
- Who is head of the Commonwealth?
- What happens on Commonwealth Day?
- When do the leaders of the Commonwealth meet?
- What do Commonwealth projects deal with?
- What influence does the Commonwealth have?
- What is the Commonwealth Games?

Vocabulary

3 Completa le frasi con le parole mancanti.

- The Commonwealth is a multi-sports event.
- Both rich and nations have an equal voice.
- The Commonwealth is not a political
- There are 53
- 71 nations and competed at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.
- Members want fair and free
- The city where the Commonwealth Games are held is called the city.

4 Scegli l'intruso.

- rule / elect / govern
- same / equal / different
- right / wrong / lawful

5 Abbina le parole (a-f) alla loro definizione (1-6).

- a continent d democracy
 b independence e Government
 c association f cooperation

- political freedom
- a group of people with a common purpose
- when a country has an elected Government
- working together for a common purpose
- one of the seven landmasses of the world
- the system of rule for a country



CHOGM 2013, Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Sri Lanka

hof Nations

The Commonwealth of Nations is not a political union. The head is the British Monarch, who is also Monarch to 16 member states – the Commonwealth Realms⁵. The first realms were colonies, which previously attained⁶ the status of self-governing Dominion within the British Empire. Some of these realms are Australia, the Bahamas, Barbados, Canada, Jamaica and New Zealand. On Commonwealth Day the British Monarch broadcasts a message to all 53 nations. Every two years the Government leaders meet at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings (CHOGMs). The Commonwealth has no constitution or charter⁷. It does not act in International

Affairs and has no influence over non-members. The leaders discuss issues of common interest and deal with⁸ environmental issues⁹. They can impose¹⁰ sanctions¹¹ or suspend members who violate its principles. The Commonwealth promotes economic and social development through the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC).

The Commonwealth Games is a multi-sports event organised every four years. The best athletes from member countries take part. The Commonwealth Games Federation controls the sporting programme and selects the host city. In 2014 the host city was Glasgow and the games were a great success.

71 nations and territories competed in 17 sports over 11 days from 23rd July to 3rd August. There were athletics and cycling track¹² events, gymnastics and judo.



Opening Ceremony, 2014 Commonwealth Games

CLIL Project

6 A coppie o a piccoli gruppi. Osservate la cartina e scegliete una nazione del Commonwealth. Fate una ricerca in Internet, poi riportate i risultati alla classe. Seguite le seguenti tracce:

- where the country is
- Government
- population
- climate
- languages they speak
- capital city
- natural beauty
- native people



7 And in your country?

- Are there sports games in your country? If yes, what kind of games?
- Is there a popular traditional sport? If yes, what is it?

WORDS YOU NEED

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. promote | promuovere |
| 2. matter | questione, problema |
| 3. concerning | riguardante |
| 4. fair | giusto, imparziale |
| 5. realm | regno |
| 6. attain | conquistare |
| 7. charter | atto costitutivo |
| 8. deal with | occuparsi di |
| 9. issue | questione, problema |
| 10. impose | imporre |
| 11. sanction | sanzione |
| 12. track | su pista |