

# SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

**NAME:** ..... **CLASS:** .....



**INTERNATIONAL PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE**

# SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

Look at the pictures of the people below and read about their achievements.

**“HI, I’M ANANIAS SHIKONGO.  
WHEN I WAS 3 YEARS OLD I LOST  
MY LEFT EYE IN AN ACCIDENT.  
THREE YEARS LATER A DONKEY  
KICKED ME, SEVERELY DAMAGING  
MY RIGHT EYE AND CAUSING THE  
LOSS OF SIGHT IN THAT EYE TOO.  
BY THE AGE OF SIX I WAS BLIND.**

I took up Para athletics when I was 14 years old. I am a sprinter. A sighted guide runs with me.

I run distances of 100, 200 and 400 metres. I compete against other blind Para athletes. I started competing for my country, Namibia, in 2004. At the Paralympic Games in London 2012 I injured a muscle in my leg. This meant that I didn’t perform very well. Four years later, at Rio 2016, I went on to make history by becoming the first Namibian man to win a Paralympic gold medal. I ran 200 metres in 22.44 seconds, breaking the Paralympic record. I was thrilled.”



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**“I’M YIP PIN XIU. I WAS BORN WITH A CONDITION CALLED MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY. WHEN I WAS YOUNG MY MUSCLES, ESPECIALLY THE ONES IN MY LEGS, GOT WEAKER. I STARTED USING A WHEELCHAIR WHEN I WAS 13 YEARS OLD.**

I am a Para swimmer. I learnt to swim when I was 5 years old. Someone spotted my talent for swimming and seven years later I became a competitive swimmer. I began swimming freestyle, but as my muscles weakened I found it difficult to kick my legs. Now I use my arms to swim backstroke. At Beijing 2008, I became the first Singaporean to win a Paralympic gold medal. This is my most memorable sporting achievement. Four years later, at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, I was proud to be Singapore’s flag bearer at the opening ceremony of the Games.

I studied sociology at university, enjoy cooking and want to encourage you all to dream big.”



**“I AM PROFESSOR STEPHEN HAWKING. I AM A SCIENTIST AND ASTROPHYSICIST.**

I cannot walk, talk, breathe easily or swallow very well and I have difficulty holding up my head. A computer talks for me. I specialise in understanding the solar system and black holes. I have written several books, including A Brief History of Time. I dream big, and believe that one day we will live on different planets. I am very proud of all that I have proved and what I have accomplished. Just like the Para athletes receive medals for winning, I have been awarded special prizes for my work.”

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**“I’M KUNIKO OBINATA. WHEN I WAS 8 YEARS OLD I WAS INVOLVED IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT. THIS RESULTED IN A LEG AMPUTATION. WHILE I WAS AT UNIVERSITY MY LIFE CHANGED WHEN I ACCIDENTALLY CAME ACROSS AN ABANDONED PAIR OF SKIS. I DECIDED I WOULD HAVE A GO AT SKIING AND FELL IN LOVE WITH THE SPEED OF SKIING AND THE BEAUTIFUL SNOW.**

I began training regularly in between studying. I went on to represent my country, Japan, in the Paralympic event of Para alpine skiing. I competed in downhill and slalom events using a ‘sit’ ski. I loved the thrill of skiing fast down a mountain. It was such fun.

I competed at five Winter Paralympic Games, including the 1998 Games that took place in the Japanese city of Nagano. I was so proud to win Paralympic gold at my home Games. I went on to become one of Japan’s most decorated athletes.

I finished competing at the age of 38. Now I am an advisor for the next Paralympic Games that will be taking place in Tokyo in 2021.

I am so thankful that I accidentally came across those skis.”



# SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

WHAT ARE THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE INDIVIDUALS IN THE STORIES?	WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE INDIVIDUALS IN THE STORIES?

# SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

## WHAT MAKES ME PROUD?

Not everyone can be good at everything but everyone can be good at something.

**Write a short blog, short story, newspaper or magazine article or use photos or pictures to create a personal poster about what makes you proud.**

Here are some ideas to get you started: What are your sporting successes? What schoolwork makes you proud? Have you made something great or taken part in a performance? Do you help others at school, at home or in your community?