



Michael Phelps

American swimmer is the most successful athlete in Olympic history, winning a record total of 14 gold medals

■ **Born:** June 30, 1985

■ **Birthplace:** Baltimore, Maryland

■ **Career:** 39 world records set since 2001 – more than any other swimmer. Tally of 16 Olympic and 33 world championship medals

■ **2004:** Wins six gold and two bronze medals at Athens Olympics

■ **2008:** Wins eight gold medals at Beijing Games – record number for one Olympics. Also sets seven world records

■ **2009-11:** Captures total of 13 world championship medals, including five gold in Rome (2009) and four gold in Shanghai (2011)

Information correct as of May 18, 2012

Picture: Getty Images

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