


# Meet the Sochi 2014 Olympic mascots

A Russian national phone vote chose a polar bear, hare and leopard to become the official mascots, after a contest which drew 24,000 entries

**POLAR BEAR**



 Lives on ice shelf beyond Arctic Circle where everything is frozen. Brought up by Arctic explorers from early age, who taught him how to ski, speed skate, curl and bobsleigh

**Controversy:**  Designer of Moscow 1980 Olympics mascot claims design is copy of his bear, *Misha*




**HARE**



**sochi.ru**  
**2014** 

 Busiest creature in winter forest, this little doe hare gets excellent grades at Forest Academy, works in her family's restaurant, enjoys all kinds of sport and loves to sing and dance

 When not rescuing people stuck on mountains or from avalanches, this cheerful, dancing leopard teaches snowboarding and lives atop huge tree in Caucasus mountains

**LEOPARD**



**Controversy:** Allegations of vote-rigging so leopard design (**Vladimir Putin's** favourite) was among those chosen