

L.E.N.S. FOCUS

L – Literacy
E – Educators’
N – Network of
S - Saskatchewan



(formerly the Saskatchewan Reading Council)

FEBRUARY, 2018

Article Focus: “Olympic Games” – Reading A-Z (attached)

Synopsis: With the XXIII Olympic Games scheduled to run from Feb. 9-25, 2018 in PyeongChang, South Korea, wouldn’t this be a great time to explore reports about the history of the Olympics, the sports involved and the athletes themselves? This year, about 95 countries in more than one hundred different events will be competing. With Canada and particularly Saskatchewan so entrenched in winter and its sports, we can hardly ignore this event on the world’s stage! This is a great time to read reports, write reports, and search for main ideas and supporting details!

Suggested teaching strategy:

I DO: Depending on your grade level, you may choose this article or any others about sports or the Olympics in particular. Approach the article with three goals in mind:

- i) overall comprehension/ basic understanding of the content
- ii) a critical reading/emotional/personal response to the content
- iii) specific breakdown of main ideas and supporting details

WE DO: Choose another article and work through the three goals together. Depending on the age and ability of the class, “I do” and “We do” may be combined.

YOU DO: Individually, have students complete several responses to other articles – this is where individual reading levels and areas of interest can come in to play.

Sample response page, using the three goals (overall comprehension, personal response, main ideas):

NON-FICTION (REPORTS)

"OLYMPIC GAMES" BY READING A-Z

1) Fill in the blanks from the word box.

- a) The Olympic Games are held every _____ years.
- b) Around _____ countries will take part in the 2018 Winter Olympic Games.
- c) The games are to be held in the country of _____
_____ this year.
- d) Three events will include _____,
_____ and _____.
- e) The Olympics *originated* in the country of _____.
- f) The Olympic Torch run always begins in _____.
- g) The three types of medals given are _____,
_____ and _____.
- h) The winners stand on a _____ while the
_____ of the winner's country is played.

WORD BOX

anthem	gold	silver	bronze	Greece
South Korea	biathlon	two	ninety-five	
short track speed skating		bobsledding	podium	

- 2) The Olympics get a lot of attention on the news. Many people love to watch the different events on TV. Do you think the Olympics are an important part of life and of sports? Why or why not? Should people spend their time doing sports instead, or should they do something else entirely?

ASPECT	Not meeting	Minimally meeting	Moderately meeting	Fully meeting	Exceeding
ANALYSIS	-illogical, irrelevant or off-topic	- obvious or superficial	- answers may be better than superficial, but poorly communicate	- answers are logical and relevant	- answers show insight into MI
Opinion		- may be mostly prior knowledge, with little evidence of using text information	- connection is there but no elaboration or explanation	- both text and personal knowledge	- support given is very specific and clearly stated
Connections		- may be vague - may just reference the text - no evidence of own thinking or knowledge	- support from text may be vague	- elaboration clarifies thinking as well as text support	- may be a fresh point of view

3) Use the following graphic organizer to show the 4 main ideas in this article and at least 2 supporting details for each:

2018 Olympics

-
-

History of Olympics

-
-

The Torch

-

"Olympic Games"
By Reading
A-Z

The Medals

-

The Olympic Games are major celebrations of summer and winter sports, with thousands of athletes from around the world competing in dozens of events. An Olympic competition is held every two years, switching between the Summer and Winter Games.

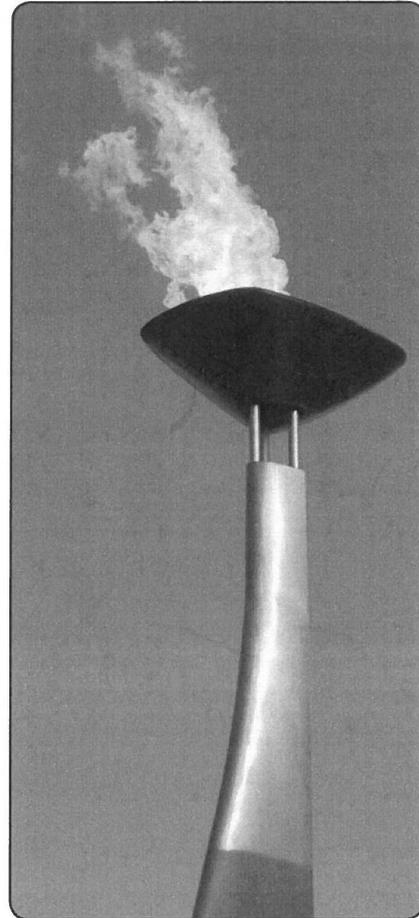
Athletes will travel to Pyeongchang, South Korea for the 2018 Winter Olympic Games, held February 9–25. Around ninety-five countries (more than four times the number from the first modern Winter Olympics) will compete in more than one hundred different winter events, including Alpine skiing, biathlon, bobsledding, cross-country skiing, curling, figure skating, freestyle skiing, ice hockey, luge, Nordic combined skiing, short track speed skating, skeleton, ski jumping, snowboarding, and speed skating. The first modern Winter Olympics took place in 1924 in Chamonix, France, with 258 athletes from sixteen nations competing.

The Olympic Games date back to ancient times. The ancient Games honored Greek gods and featured events that are still common in the Summer Olympics today. Ancient ruins have been found in Olympia, Greece, showing that the Games were held there for centuries. In ancient times, warring groups made peace while they participated in the Games at Olympia.

In 1894, a Frenchman named Baron Pierre de Coubertin founded the International Olympic Committee to build a more peaceful world through sports. Coubertin's dream was to create a time when nations could set aside differences and come together in the spirit of sportsmanship. In 1896, the first modern Olympic Games were held in Athens, Greece.

Today, the ceremonies and events begin long before the actual sports competitions. In Olympia, Greece, a runner lights a torch that travels to the country hosting the Olympics. The torch is passed from runner to runner until it reaches the final destination, which signals the beginning of the Olympic Games.

Participants from all over the world represent their countries at the Olympic Games. At the end of each sporting event, the winners are announced in a special ceremony, and gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded to first-, second-, and third-place winners. The medalists stand on platforms while the anthem from the first-place winner's country is played. It is a proud moment for all of the winning athletes and the countries they represent.



The Olympic torch stays lit throughout the Games.

Do You Know?

- Australia and New Zealand are the only two countries south of the equator to have ever won medals at the Winter Olympics.
- Norway has won more gold medals at the Winter Olympic Games than any other country.

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