Olympics Research Project

The 2014 Winter Olympics will soon be upon us! The games will be held in Sochi, Russia, from February 7 to February 23, 2014. The Olympic motto is Citius-Altius-Fortius, which is Latin for “swifter, higher, stronger.” The motto has been with the Games since 1894.

The city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil has been selected to be the host city of the Olympic Summer Games in 2016. The Summer Olympics will open on August 5th and run through August 21st 2016.

Current Olympic Winter Sports

**Ice Sports**
- Bobsled
- Luge
- Skeleton
- Ice Hockey

- Figure Skating (including Ice Dancing)
- Speed Skating
- Short Track Speed Skating
- Curling

**Alpine, Skiing and Snowboarding Events**
- Alpine Skiing
- Freestyle Skiing (Aerials, Moguls and Ski Cross)
- Snowboarding

**Nordic Events**
- Biathlon (cross-country skiing and target shooting)
- Cross-Country Skiing
- Ski Jumping
- Nordic Combined (ski jumping and cross country skiing)
## Current Olympic Summer Sports

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## The Project

Olympic sports and the people that compete in these games need to be athletically talented but also need to be hard working and determined. As the Olympics will soon be taking place, we will be doing a project in order to learn more about the various sports and the athletes who compete in them.

Your task is to write a **2-4 page informational report** on one of the Olympic sports (either winter or summer games are fine) including information about a competing team or athlete. We will be scheduling **some** class time to work on this project, as much of the information may need to be taken from the Internet.
Your report should consist of four parts:

• a written history and explanation of the sport
• written information about the team or individual athlete that will be competing in the Olympic games
• a poster advertising the team or an individual athlete and the upcoming Olympic competition (keep it small - no larger than 12 x 18 inches so we can hang them in the hall)
• a bibliography listing your sources using NoodleBib. Your bibliography will be completed in Library Class or during our Reading Class. You need to use at least one print source (a book, encyclopedia or other reference book or magazine) and one online source - either a website or one of the school's online databases such as Groliers or World Book Online.

Specific Information

The Written Report
The 2-4 page written report should be neatly typed and double-spaced. It is suggested that you use a size 12 font and either Times Roman or Comic Sans.

The first part should include: a brief history of the sport, when and where it began, why it is popular, and an overall explanation of how the game is played. We don't need detailed rules and regulations; just give the reader an understanding of the object of the game and an overview of how it is played. You don't need to get too technical!

In the second part of the written report you should choose to report on either the team or an individual athlete - your choice. Some sports in the Olympics are team events, while others are individual competitions. You may report on the whole team in the case of a team event, one specific individual on the team or an individual competitor in the case of individual competitions. Try to make this part engaging and interesting to the reader. If possible, get personal information on the team or athlete. Personal information is what makes the connection between the author (you) and the reader!
The Poster
Please limit the size of your poster to no larger than 12 x 18 inches. This will make displaying the posters in the hallway easier!

Your poster should be colorful, neat, well organized and should include text as well as graphics (pictures). The graphics may be images retrieved from the Internet or hand-drawn. The purpose of your poster is to promote or advertise an Olympic sport or Olympic athlete, so be creative! You might want to include some interesting facts, past achievements or awards won by the team or athlete.

Bibliography using NoodleBib
You will need to keep a record of the books and other resources you use for this project. You need to use at least one print source (a book, encyclopedia or other reference book or magazine) and one online source - either a website or one of the school's online databases such as Groliers or World Book Online. We will work on this at the Middle School library, so don’t panic, but be sure to keep a good record of the materials you use. Be organized and use the resource forms available in the Middle School Library!
Important Dates to Remember

The due date for this project will be **Thursday, February 6th**, the day before the opening of the Olympic games in Sochi!

**Friday, January 17th** Return the bottom portion of this page, signed by you and a parent. This tells me that you have shown this project to one of your parents and that they are aware of this project. Returning this on time is worth 10 points!

**Wednesday, January 29th** Submit a status report to your teacher. What do I mean by a status report? I want a few neatly written sentences (see the next page) telling me how far you are with your project. Handing in your status report on time is worth another 10 points!

**Thursday, February 6th** Olympic projects are due! Students will present their project to the class.

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**Olympics Research Project**

I, ____________________________, have chosen the following Olympic sport to research: ________________________________________________.

I will also be reporting on _________________________________ (choose either the team or give the name of the individual athlete). I will prepare a status report by and will have my project done by February 6th.

________________________________________________________________________

Student Signature  Parent Signature
Status Report - due January 29th

I am researching the following sport for the Olympics Research Project:
___________________________________________________________________________________________

This is what I am doing for my project:
___________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________

We are aware that the Olympics Research Project is due in class on February 6th.

_________________________________________  __________________________________________
Student Signature                          Parent Signature
The Ancient Olympics
The ancient Greeks dedicated the Olympic games to the god Zeus. The original games were held on the plain of Olympia in Peloponnesus, Greece. The Greeks held the first Olympic games in the year 776 B.C. (over 2,700 years ago) and had only one event, a sprint (a short run). The race was run by men who competed in the nude. A wreath of olive branches was placed on the winner’s head. The olive tree was the sacred tree of Athens, Greece.

Women were not allowed to compete in the games or even to watch them, because the games were dedicated to Zeus and were therefore meant for men.

The four-year period between the Olympic games was called an Olympiad. Every four years, for 1,170 years, the Greeks held an Olympics, which continued to grow and change. Many other sports were added, including other races, wrestling, boxing, pentathlon (five events, including the long jump, javelin throw, discus throw, foot race and wrestling), and equestrian events (events with horses and people, like chariot races and horse races). The Byzantine Emperor Theodosius II, however, banned the Olympic games in the year A.D. 394.

The Modern Olympic Games
Over 1,500 years later, a French educator and sportsman by the name of Pierre de Fredy, Baron de Coubertin revived the Olympic games. An all-male Olympic games were held in 1896 in Athens, Greece. The first winter Olympics were held in 1924 in France.
The Flag of the Olympic Games
The flag of the Olympic games has five interlocking rings (blue, yellow, black, green, and red) on a white background. The rings represent the five parts of the world that were joined together in the Olympic movement: Africa, the Americas, Asia, Australia and Europe. Baron de Coubertin designed the flag in 1913-1914.

The Olympic flag was first used in the 1920 Olympic games in Antwerp, Belgium. The Olympic flag is paraded during the opening ceremony of each Olympics. At the end of an Olympics, the mayor of the host-city presents the flag to the mayor of the next host-city. The flag will remain in the town hall of the next host-city until the next Olympics, four years later.

History of the Olympic Flame
The tradition of the Olympic flame began during the ancient Olympic games, over 2,700 years ago in Greece. A flame was lit for each Olympics, every four years, and it burned throughout the games. The flame symbolized the death and rebirth of Greek heroes. There was no torch relay in the ancient Olympics. The first torch relay took place at the 1936 games in Berlin, Germany.

The Torches of the Olympics
For each Olympics, a new flame is started in the ancient Olympic stadium in Olympia, Elis, Greece, using a parabolic mirror to focus the rays of the sun. This flame begins its Olympic Torch Relay by touring Greece. The flame is normally taken to the country where the games will be held (usually by airplane). Following that, the flame is then carried around the country where the games are to be held, using a series of torches carried by people running, walking, riding horses and camels, scuba diving and using other means of human conveyance. The last runner uses a
torch to light the large Olympic torch, which burns throughout the games. The flame is extinguished during the closing ceremony. A new Olympic torch is designed for each of the games.

The Olympic Motto is “Citius, Altius, Fortius,” which means “Swifter, Higher, Stronger.”

**Olympic Medals**
At the ancient Olympics, a wreath of olive branches called a kotinos was placed on the winner’s head. At the modern Olympics, each first-place winner receives a gold medal, each second-place winner receives a silver medal and each third-place winner receives a bronze medal. Different medals are designed for each new Olympics. Certificates called victory diplomas are also given to many top winners in each sport.