

Learning About the Olympics

Make an Olympic Flag

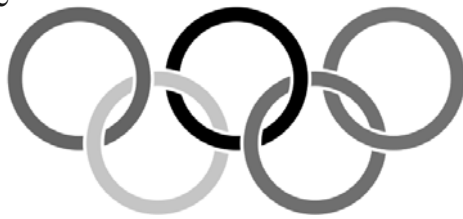
The five rings used by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) represent passion, faith, victory, work ethic and sportsmanship. It was designed in 1913 by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympic games, and adopted in 1914 then appeared in the 1920 games at Antwerp, Belgium.

The Antwerp flag followed from country to country until the 1988 games in Seoul, Korea when it was retired. It is now on display at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland. Seoul presented the IOC with the current flag.

What You Need:

Construction paper -- blue, yellow, black, red, green and white

Scissors
Pencil
Tape
Glue



What to Do:

1. Find something round to trace to make a circle. Draw a second circle inside the first. Do this for each color until you have five rings.
2. Cut across each ring then loop them together like in the picture above.
3. Glue onto a piece of white construction paper. Allow to dry completely. Hang in the classroom or around the school.

The Olympic Motto

The unofficial Olympic motto is "The most important thing is not to win but to take part!" It was taken from a sermon given by the Bishop of Pennsylvania during the 1908 Olympics in London, England. Write about something you did where winning wasn't as important as taking part of it.

Olympics Word Scramble

Can you unscramble these words?

SORTPS _____

DOGL _____

LVESIR _____

ZBONRE _____

RNNIWE _____

SMREMU _____

RINTWE _____

GIRNS _____

CROHT _____

IREF _____

ALHTEET _____

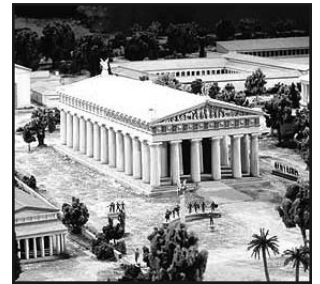
The Ancient Olympics

The Ancient Olympic games began in 776 BC and were held in Olympia, Greece. They were originally a part of a religious festival in honor of Zeus, the father of Greek gods and goddesses. The ancient Games took place from 776 BC through 393 AD.

The athletes were all male citizens of the city-states from every corner of the Greek world. Some came from as far away as Iberia (Spain) in the west and the Black Sea (Turkey) in the east.

The events at the ancient games included a 200-yard sprint called a stadion, wrestling, boxing, horse races, mule cart races, chariot racing, and competitions for heralds and trumpeters.

Write about how the events of today's games differ from the ancient games.



Write an Acrostic Olympic Poem

Write a poem about the Olympics. Start each line with a letter from the word Olympics.

O _____

L _____

Y _____

M _____

P _____

I _____

C _____

S _____

Olympics Word Search

L D E E R J U S S S J V
O B Y Z W J U E E T G G
Q P Q N N M X T M R P P
V U N E M O R S A O S D
H O S E V N R E G P C P
T A R E Y R I B N S Z M
R E T N I W E T C N K I
C Q A V Q Y M V K I I X
D L O G V F Q X L E G W
C H A M P I O N U I E Q
H J S H C R O T S L S C
Z L C S I Y Y V G W N Q

BRONZE
CHAMPION
GAMES
GOLD
SILVER

SPORTS
SUMMER
TORCH
WINNER
WINTER

Inventing a New Sport

There are many unusual Olympic sports, like skeleton (running and then sledding), biathlon (skiing plus shooting), and curling (using brooms to propel an object over ice).

Make up a new sport that you think would be fun to play and watch, then write down how it would be played and the rules for the game. Be sure to create a game that can be played



by your classmates and uses equipment that can be found in the school.

Create gold, silver and bronze medals to give as prizes for the winners of your event. Then hold your own Olympics featuring the games created by you and your classmates.