

Winter Olympics

WebQuest Description: Are you "feeling very Olympic today"? If you've ever seen the movie "Cool Runnings", you might recognize this quote. This WebQuest will allow students to explore the Winter Olympics while putting their math skills to use. Students will use scores and times from the 2010 Winter Olympics to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, and will also learn about some past Olympians & their accomplishments.

Grade Level: 6-8

Curriculum: Math

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Introduction

Every four years athletes from all over the world converge on the city that has been chosen to host the Winter Olympics to participate in sports that are held on ice or snow. Some of these sports include downhill skiing, figure skating, bobsled, luge, ice hockey, and snowboarding, an event which was added in 1998. No matter what your interests, there is something for everyone when it comes to the Winter Olympic Games! In this WebQuest you will explore some of these events, use your math skills to work with participants' scores & times, create a bar graph comparing the medals earned by all the countries, and learn a little about the history of the winter Olympic games.

Tasks

Your Olympic team, consisting of three athletes, will complete the tasks laid out for you by the Olympic Committee. Your team will perform a variety of assignments related to math, the Winter Olympics, and the history of the Winter Olympics, resulting in a portfolio of completed tasks. You will use the Internet to search for statistics, create graphs, and research the Winter Olympics. The players on your team will assume one of the following roles: Statistician: You will be consulted anytime the subject is math. Sports Reporter: Writing is your strength; you will be the recorder. Judge: You will make any final decisions necessary, & you will perform any tasks that deal with technology.

Process

First, your teacher will help you form a team of 2 or 3 players. Decide on the role you will play: statistician, sports reporter, or judge. Then read through all of the tasks before beginning your Olympic experience!

Be sure to use this page for each task. There is more information here than on your printed sheet. Also, the resources provided are exactly what you need; use them!

Task #1: Print & complete the Winter Olympics Challenge, which will introduce you to some of the terminology of the Winter Olympics. Include this page & anything else you print in your portfolio. (This may already be in your packet).

Task #2: Print & complete the Winter Olympics Word Search & include it in your portfolio. (This may already be in your packet).

Task #3: Choose a Winter Olympic sport that none of you are familiar with and become experts on it! Fill out the Winter Olympic Sports Questionnaire on your sport. Resources: Wikipedia, Olympics.org

Task #4: Choose 5 Winter Olympic sports with which you are not familiar. Research the five sports & write a short paragraph describing each one. Do not just copy down the information you find! Include these paragraphs on your Winter Olympic Sports Questionnaire. Resources: Wikipedia, Olympics.org

Task #5: Locate the results for Downhill Alpine Skiing. Use the results for the top 10 participants. (You may choose to use the men's times or the women's times; the men's competition is on Feb. 13, & the women's competition is on Feb. 17). I would suggest converting the times to seconds by multiplying the number of minutes by 60 & then adding the remaining seconds to your product. For example, 1:10.84 = 70.84 seconds. Then find the mean, mode, median, & range of these times, putting your answers on Worksheet 1. Resources: Olympics.org, Vancouver 2010, ESPN.com

Task #6: Listen to Al Michaels' broadcast of the end of the 1980 hockey game between the U.S. and the Soviet Union (now Russia). If you've seen the movie *Miracle*, you may recognize this sound bite. Be sure that you get permission from an adult to listen in study hall or in the library! Next, watch the last few minutes of the game on YouTube. (The U.S. jerseys are white, while the Soviets are in red). This was not the game for the gold medal (the U.S. won that game later), but for the U.S. team to beat the Soviet Union was an incredible upset. On Worksheet 1 record the score of this game plus the score of the gold medal game against Finland. Resource: Wikipedia

Task #7: Using Wikipedia, read about the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team. You are not expected to read this entire article as it is rather lengthy. However, read the first two paragraphs & make sure you read the section entitled "Do You Believe in Miracles?" Also scroll down to the very bottom where you will see a roster of the players on the team. Notice which neighboring state of Iowa's many of the players called home. Answer this question on Worksheet 1. (To further this task you could watch the movie, *Miracle*, at home with your family).

Task #8: Take this 2006 Winter Olympics quiz. Yes, it is four years old, but it's still kind of fun to see how you do! You should still recognize some of the names. Record your score on Worksheet 1.

Focus: This WebQuest focuses on the 2010 Winter Olympics and involves students in many math-related tasks as well as some geography, history of the Olympic games, and technology. The objective of this WebQuest is to use math skills in a fun & interesting way and to hook students on the excitement of the Olympic Games. Objectives/Goals: I would suggest starting this WebQuest sometime before February 12, 2010, the date of the opening ceremonies for the Vancouver Olympics. The first events will be held on February 13. The students should already possess the mathematic skills necessary to complete the WebQuest and can focus on enjoying the process. In this WebQuest: Students will use the Internet for research and to find results from the 2010 Winter Olympics. Students will create a bar graph comparing the medals won by participating countries. Students will become knowledgeable on five Olympic sports with which they were not previously familiar. Students, using downhill skiing results, will find the mean, mode, median, and range of those scores. Students will research some prominent Olympic figures from the past. Students will have fun with math! Students will work as a team toward a common goal. Students will become caught up in the excitement of the Olympic Games! Resources: Prerequisite skills: ability to use the Internet and electronic mail Time required: 1-2 days of classroom time, plus students' study hall time; the games last until February 28, & one of the tasks will have to be completed after all of the events are completed. Technology and Materials Needed: computer access Credits: All of the links used in this WebQuest are external links, without whose expertise this WebQuest would not be possible!

Standards

Credits

Other