

Modern Olympics Information Gap

Developed by colleagues of Nabil Ramzy in Fife, we are rushing this information gap on line in time for the games. Please look at the other information gaps online (e.g. Darwins Birthday or Indus Valley) to decide how you will use it since there are a number of ways pupils can exchange information.

Webaddress

<http://www.collaborativelearning.org/modernolympics.pdf>

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COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROJECT

Project Director: Stuart Scott

We support a network of teaching professionals to develop and disseminate accessible talk-for-learning activities in all subject areas and for all ages.

17, Barford Street, Islington, London N1 0QB UK Phone: 0044 (0)20 7226 8885

Website: <http://www.collaborativelearning.org>

BRIEF SUMMARY OF BASIC PRINCIPLES BEHIND OUR TEACHING ACTIVITIES:

The project is a teacher network, and a non-profit making educational trust. Our main aim is to develop and disseminate classroom tested examples of effective group strategies that promote talk across all phases and subjects. We hope they will inspire you to develop and use similar strategies in other topics and curriculum areas. We want to encourage you to change them and adapt them to your classroom and students. We run teacher workshops, swapshops and conferences throughout the European Union. The project posts online many activities in all subject areas. An online newsletter is also updated regularly.

*These activities are influenced by current thinking about the role of language in learning. They are designed to help children learn through talk and active learning in small groups. They work best in non selective classes where children in need of language or learning support are integrated. They are well suited for the development of oracy. They provide teachers opportunities for assessment of talk.

*They support differentiation by placing a high value on what children can offer to each other on a particular topic, and also give children the chance to respect each other's views and formulate shared opinions which they can disseminate to peers. By helping them to take ideas and abstract concepts, discuss, paraphrase and move them about physically, they help to develop thinking skills.

*They give children the opportunity to participate in their own words and language in their own time without pressure. Many activities can be tried out in pupils' first languages and afterwards in English. A growing number of activities are available in more than one language, not translated, but mixed, so that you may need more than one language to complete the activity.

*They encourage study skills in context, and should therefore be used with a range of appropriate information books which are preferably within reach in the classroom.

*They are generally adaptable over a wide age range because children can bring their own knowledge to an activity and refer to books at an appropriate level. The activities work like catalysts.

*All project activities were planned and developed by teachers working together, and the main reason they are disseminated is to encourage teachers to work more effectively with each other inside and outside the classroom. They have made it possible for mainstream and language and learning support teachers to share an equal role in curriculum delivery. They should be adapted to local conditions. In order to help us keep pace with curriculum changes, please send any new or revised activities back to the project, so that we can add them to our lists of materials.

Modern Olympics - Recording Grid

	Paralympics	Football	Athletics
Information about the sport e.g. how many competitors there are, where the events will take place, what the athletes have to do, how the winners are decided, etc.			
Interesting facts			
Jargon Buster			

Modern Olympics - Recording Grid

	Swimming	Cycling - BMX	Volleyball	Trampoline
Information about the sport e.g. how many competitors there are, where the events will take place, what the athletes have to do, how the winners are decided, etc.				
Interesting facts				
Jargon Buster				

Athletics

At the London Olympics, Athletics events will be held at the new Olympic Stadium. This stadium can hold 80,000 people and is also where the games Opening and Closing ceremonies will take place.



The Athletics competition is divided into four main areas: track events, field events, combined events, and road events.

Track events include races such as the 100 metres sprint, the 10,000 metres race and hurdle and steeplechase races in which the athletes have to jump over obstacles.

There will be five Road events at the London Olympics: the men's and women's Marathons, the men's and women's 20km Race Walks, and the men's 50km Race Walk. These races are not held in the Olympic stadium, instead they all take place on the streets of London.

The Field events are divided into two groups - throwing and jumping. The throwing events are the Shot Put, Javelin, Discus and the Hammer. In the High Jump and the Pole Vault, athletes aim to jump higher than their rivals; in the Long Jump and Triple Jump, they try to jump further.

Finally, there are the two combined events: Decathlon for men and Heptathlon for women. During each competition, athletes will run, jump and throw to score points.

Interesting facts:

- The Marathon race commemorates the run of a Greek soldier who had to deliver a message from a battlefield near the town of Marathon to Athens in 490BC. Legend has it that he collapsed and died after running 171 miles in just two days.
- Athletics is the biggest sport at the Olympics with 2,000 athletes running, walking, jumping and throwing for gold in 47 events.

Jargon buster:

- **Anchor:** A team's final runner in a relay race.
- **Cage:** The area from which competitors throw a discus or hammer
- **False start:** When an athlete moves off the starting blocks either before the gun has fired or within 0.10 seconds of the gun firing.
- **Sprint:** A track race over 400m or less.

Cycling - BMX



The fast and furious sport of BMX will be making only its second Olympic appearance at the London 2012 Games. The competition will be held at the Olympic Park BMX track. 48 athletes will compete to win medals in two events.

The BMX races at London 2012 will be held on a short outdoor track, with the riders starting on an 8metre -high ramp. The course is built up with jumps, bumps and tightly banked corners. Eight riders will compete in heats, with each race lasting around 40 seconds.

BMX bikes have only one gear and one brake. Bikes need to be strong enough to stand up to the wear and tear from the heavy landings after jumps, yet light enough to be fast and competitive.

Interesting facts

- BMX was inspired by motocross, the motorised version of the sport.
- BMX made its debut at the Beijing 2008 Games. The winners of the two events were from Latvia and France.
- After the Games, the BMX Track will be open to the general public.
- The specially constructed BMX track in the Olympic Park will have room for 6,000 spectators.

Jargon buster

- **Berm:** A banked corner.
- **Bunny-hop:** To lift both wheels off the ground at once.
- **Gate:** The start of a BMX circuit.
- **Holeshot:** The first rider to take the lead after the start.
- **Whoop:** A small, wave-like bump in the track.

Football



At the London Olympics there will be football competitions for men and women's teams. The games will be played in six different cities across the UK: Coventry, Glasgow, Cardiff, Manchester, Newcastle, and London. The finals will be held in London. 504 athletes will take part in the football competition. There will be two medal events at London 2012, one for men's teams and one for women.

As there are many games to be played, the Football competition actually kicks off two days before the Olympic Games Opening Ceremony. At London 2012, the men's competition will be an under-23s event, although each country will be allowed to include three older players in their team. There are no age restrictions for the women's competition.

Football was introduced as a medal sport at the 1908 Olympic Games. Great Britain won the gold medal, then successfully defended their title four years later in Stockholm. The sport has featured at every Olympic Games since, with the exception of Los Angeles 1932.

Interesting facts

- During the London 2012 Football competition, approximately 2,400 footballs will be used.
- Hungary has won three Football gold medals - more than any other country.
- The only time a gold-medal match has been decided on penalties was in Sydney 2000, when Cameroon beat Spain in a shootout.

Jargon buster

- **Extra time:** If a match in the knockout stages is tied at the end of 90 minutes, the teams play 30 minutes of extra time in a bid to find a winner.
- **Foul:** Illegal interference with an opposing player, such as tripping.
- **Indirect free kick:** A type of free kick from which the attacking team cannot score directly without more than one player touching the ball first.
- **Penalty shootout:** If the scores are tied at the end of extra time, there's a penalty shootout, in which each team has five penalty kicks. If the teams remain tied after five penalties, the shootout takes a sudden-death form, with single rounds of one kick per team to determine the winner.

Gymnastics - Trampoline



The Trampoline is the newest Gymnastic competition at the Olympic games. It was first included as an Olympic sport in the year 2000, at the games in Sydney, Australia. At the London 2012 games the trampoline competitions will be held at the North Greenwich Arena near the River Thames. This arena is also where the Basketball finals will be held.

In the trampoline competition gymnasts perform a series of short routines, which contain a variety of twists, bounces and somersaults. Precise technique and perfect body control are vital for success. The judges award marks for the difficulty of the routine, how well the athlete performs the routine and for the length of time the athlete stays up in the air. Both men and women compete in the Trampoline events.

Interesting facts

- The trampolines used at the Games will be 5 metres long, 3 m wide and 1.2m high. The spring 'bed' is made from nylon or string material and is only about 6mm thick.
- Athletes can spring up to heights of 10 metres.
- The inventors of the trampoline created several games, including Spaceball where two teams had to try and hit a target with a ball.
- The word 'Gymnastics' comes from the Greek adjective 'gymnos', meaning 'naked': early gymnasts used to perform without any clothes.

Jargon buster

- **Adolph:** A front somersault with 3Vi twists.
- **Barani:** A front somersault with a half-twist.
- **Fliffus:** A double somersault with at least a half-twist.
- **Quadriffus:** A quadruple somersault with at least a half-twist.
- **Rudolph:** A front somersault with VA twists, sometimes known as a 'Rudy'.

Swimming



Speed, strength and stamina will be important for athletes in the Swimming competition at the London 2012 Games, which features 34 medal events. 950 athletes will be competing to win a medal in the brand new Aquatics Centre which has been specially built for the Olympic Games. The 10K swimming competition will be held in a river in Hyde Park.

There are four strokes used in Olympic competition: Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Butterfly. All four strokes are used in the Medley events. Olympic races are swum over a variety of distances, from 50m (one length of the pool) all the way up to 1500m.

There is evidence of people swimming for sport all the way back to Ancient Egyptian and Ancient Greek times. Swimming is very popular around the world as a leisure activity, and is always a favourite with crowds at the Olympics.

Interesting facts

- Underwater Swimming featured at the Olympic games in Paris in the year 1900. Competitors earned points for the length of time and distance they were underwater.
- Johnny Weissmuller was the first man to swim 100 metres in under a minute. He was also famous out of the pool because he played the role of Tarzan in the movies.

Jargon buster

- **Long course:** A 50m pool of the type used in Olympic competition, as opposed to a short course measuring 25m.
- **Medley:** A combination event in which a swimmer or team swims separate lengths of backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly and freestyle.
- **Negative split:** When an athlete swims the second half of a race faster than the first half.
- **Open turn:** A type of turn for which swimmers must touch the end of the pool with their hands.
- **Tumble turn:** An underwater roll at the end of a lap, which allows swimmers to push off from the end of the pool with their feet.

The Paralympic Games

The Paralympic games are sport events for athletes with a disability, and are held immediately after the Olympic games, at the same venues. Athletes from all over the world compete for gold in 20 different sports, including judo, swimming, cycling and basketball.



Paralympic Judo

At the Paralympic games, Judo competitions are held for visually impaired athletes, both men and women. The sport's one-on-one battles can be tough, tense and explosive, as competitors grapple for an advantage against determined opponents. Each Judo match lasts for five minutes, unless one competitor scores an 'ippon' by throwing, holding or pinning down their opponent, which instantly wins the contest.

Interesting facts

- The mats have different textures to indicate the competition area and zones.
- Matches take place on a 10m x 10m mat, known as a Tatami.

Jargon buster

- **judogi:** A judo uniform.
- **Judoka:** A competitor.

Paralympic Cycling

Paralympic Cycling was originally developed as a sport for blind athletes, who first competed using tandem bicycles, riding with a sighted rider.

Interesting facts

- Handcycling is where athletes use their arms to power the machines instead of their legs.

Jargon buster

- **Road Race:** all riders start together, and the first to cross the finish line wins gold.
- **Time Trial:** the riders set off one at a time and the winner is the rider with the fastest time over the course.

Paralympic Swimming

600 swimmers will compete in nearly 150 swimming events at the Paralympic games. Blind swimmers have to wear blackened goggles to ensure that competition is fair. Goggles are removed at the end of the race and checked by an official.

Four swimming strokes are used in Paralympic competition: Front Crawl, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Butterfly.

Jargon Buster

- **Medley:** A combination event in which a swimmer or team swims separate legs of backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly and freestyle.
- **Tapper:** A 'tapper*' can help a swimmer with a visual impairment to know when they are approaching the end of the pool.

Wheelchair Basketball

Wheelchair Basketball is one of the most popular sports at the Paralympic Games and 264 athletes will take part in the basketball competitions, with 12 players in each team.

Top wheelchair basketball players use specially-designed titanium chairs that cost more than £3,500 and can last for as little as six months when playing in competitions.

The rules of Wheelchair Basketball are quite similar to Basketball. The court is the same size, the basket is at the same height, and the scoring is the same: two points for a regular shot, one point for a free throw and three points for a shot from distance. Players move the ball around the court by passing or dribbling, and have to throw or bounce the ball after every two pushes of the wheels on their chairs.

Jargon buster

- **Assist:** A pass that leads directly to a basket scored by a teammate.
- **Downtown:** The area outside the three-point line.
- **Shot clock:** A timer measuring the length of time since the last shot.



Volleyball



Volleyball is a team sport in which players try to land a ball in the opposite side of a court in order to score points. Volleyball is played by two teams of six players on an 18m x 9m indoor court. Each team is allowed three touches of the ball before it must cross over the net. The attacking moves in Volleyball are called the 'set' and the 'spike' and are used to power the ball over the net and onto the ground, beating the other players to score points.

At London 2012, the Volleyball competition will be held at Earls Court, a popular multipurpose venue that first opened its doors in 1937. There will be 288 players in total taking part in the Volleyball competition. There is a gold medal to be won for Women's Volleyball and for Men's Volleyball.

Interesting facts

- Volleyball requires amazing power and astonishing reactions: in the men's game, the ball can reach speeds faster than 130 km per hour.
- The famous set and spike play is thought to have been invented in the Philippines.
- The first Olympic Volleyball competition was held in 1964, when the gold medals were won by the Soviet Union and Japan.

Jargon Buster

- **Spike:** To smash the ball overarm into the opponent's court.
- **Block:** stopping the ball from coming over the net by forming a 'wall' of hands at the net.
- **Dig:** A defensive shot from close to the ground to stop the opposite team scoring a point.
- **Setter:** The player who 'sets' the ball for the attacker to hit over the net