Unit 1/Week 6

Title: The Olympic Games: Where Heroes Are Made

Suggested Time: 5 days (45 minutes per day) Longer if you do more of the suggested activities.

Common Core ELA Standards: RI.3.1, RI.3.2, RI.3.3, RI.3.4, RI.3.5, RI.3.7, RI.3.10; RF. 3.3, RF. 3.4; W3.1, W.3.2, W. 3.9; SL.3.1, SL.3.2, SL.3.4, SL.3.6; L.3.1, L.3.2, L.3.4, L.3.5

Teacher Instructions

*Refer to the Introduction for further details.*

**Before Teaching**

1. Read the Big Ideas and Key Understandings and the Synopsis. Please do **not** read this to the students. This is a description for teachers, about the big ideas and key understanding that students should take away **after** completing this task.

Big Ideas and Key Understandings

The Olympic Games, started long ago in Ancient Greece, continue to bring together athletes from around the world.

Synopsis

The Olympic Games have grown and changed since the first contests were held in Ancient Greece. However, one aspect of the games remains the same—their ability to inspire amazing performances from the world’s best athletes.

1. Read entire main selection text, keeping in mind the Big Ideas and Key Understandings.
2. Re-read the main selection text while noting the stopping points for the Text Dependent Questions and teaching Vocabulary.

**During Teaching**

1. Students read the entire main selection text independently.
2. Teacher reads the main selection text aloud with students following along.

(Depending on how complex the text is and the amount of support needed by students, the teacher may choose to reverse the order of steps 1 and 2.)

1. Students and teacher re-read the text while stopping to respond to and discuss the questions and returning to the text. A variety

of methods can be used to structure the reading and discussion (i.e.: whole class discussion, think-pair-share, independent written response, group work, etc.)

Text Dependent Questions

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| **Text Dependent Questions** | **Answers** |
| Why did Baron de Coubertin encourage the world to bring back the Olympic Games? | Baron de Coubertin thought the Olympic Games would make people healthier and stronger and help countries learn to live in peace. |
| When and where were the original Olympic games held? How do we know? | The first Olympic Games took place in ancient Greece. They were held about every four years for more than one thousand years. The first written report of the Games was made in 776 B.C. |
| In what way is the Olympic Flag a symbol for what the Games are supposed to do for people all over the world?  (What is true about the five colors on the Olympic flag? Why is it so important that the colors represent this? How does that represent the spirit of the Olympic Games?) | At least one of the five colors, blue, black, red, yellow and green is on the flag of every country in the world. Since the Olympic Games represent the hope for countries to come together in peace and for health, it is good that the flag, as a symbol of the games, include everybody involved. It does this with the circles and the colors. |
| What happens first, second and last during the parade of nations? | During the parade of nations the countries march into the stadium in alphabetical order except for the host country, which comes last. The athletes follow their country’s flag. |
| How have the Olympics grown since the first modern Games in 1896? | The number of athletes and countries has grown from 311 athletes in 13 countries to more than 10,000 athletes from 199 countries. The number of Olympic events has grown from fewer than 30 to 300. |
| How does the Olympic torch arrive at the Olympics? | Four months before the start of the Olympics, a torch is lit at the ancient site of Olympia. It is carried by air, by sea, and on land, being handed from one person to another along the way, until it reaches the new site of the Olympics. |
| What oath do the Olympic athletes take? | In the oath, the Olympic athletes promise to obey the rules for fair play. |
| What details from Evelyn Ashford’s early track career help you know she was very fast? | Evelyn Ashford was invited to join an all-boy high school track team and could beat most of her teammates; she was one of the first women to get an athletic scholarship to the University of California at Los Angeles. |
| How did Michael Johnson make running history twice? | In 1996, Michael Johnson became the first man to win gold medals in both the 200-meter and 400-meter races. Then, when he won the 400-meter race at the 2000 Games, he became the first to win this race in two Olympics in a row. |
| What is a stroke in swimming? Explain how swimming strokes are connected to the changes in how swimming events in the first modern Games are very different from those of today. | In the first modern Games, a swimmer could use any stroke in a race, but now there are four strokes that swimmers use in different races. They are the crawl, or freestyle, the breaststroke, backstroke and butterfly. |
| What details does the author include to let readers know that Mark Spitz was a special swimmer even before he went to his first Olympics? | The author says that mark Spitz set his first world record when he was 10 years old and set more world records as a teenager. |
| What did Lenny Krayzelburg accomplish at the 2000 Sydney games? | Lenny Krayzelburg won all of his backstroke events—the 100-meter, 200-meter and the backstroke part of a relay team at the 2000 Olympics. |
| What are some of the new sports that have been added to the Olympics over the years? | Water polo, soccer, volleyball, basketball, field hockey, baseball, and softball have all been added to the Olympic Games. |
| What happens to the Olympic flag at the closing ceremony? | The Olympic flag is handed from the mayor of the host city to the mayor of the next host city. |
| What is the creed of the Olympic Games? | The Olympic Creed says, “The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part…” |

Vocabulary

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|  | **KEY WORDS ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTANDING**  Words addressed with a question or task | **WORDS WORTH KNOWING**  General teaching suggestions are provided in the Introduction |
| **TEACHER PROVIDES DEFINITION**  not enough contextual clues provided in the text | Ancient,  chariot races  Stadium  Oath  Modern  relay  length (of the pool)  Windmill , “the game began to turn’, tie the game, walked two batters, popped a fly | officially  Host  Tradition  Solemn  Scholarship  Enrolled, Record  Windmill  Creed |
| **STUDENTS FIGURE OUT THE MEANING**  sufficient context clues are provided in the text | Compete  Sprints, Freestyle  Pitcher | Committee  Events  Site  Stroke  Earned  Ceremonies |

Culminating Task

* Re-Read, Think, Discuss, Write

Explain some of the many ways the Olympic Games have changed from the ancient Greek games to the modern Olympic Games. Then explain the important ways they have stayed the same.

Answer: At first the Olympics included only track-and-field events; they now include many different types of events. Originally, men were only allowed to compete, since 1908 women have competed in ever-growing numbers. Many new sports have been added, including water polo, soccer, volleyball, basketball, field hockey, baseball and softball. There are also more team sports.

Additional Tasks

* The Olympic Creed says, “The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part…” Reread the section on Lenny Krayzelburg and describe how he prepared to be a winner at the Olympics.

Answer: As a child, Lenny Krayzelburg was selected for a special training program. When he was eight, he was swimming five hours a day, running and lifting weights. When he moved to a new country, he searched hard for a new place to swim. It was hard to get the training he needed, but he finally found the right coach who told him, “You can be the best in the world.”

* Have students create a timeline to help them better understand the sequence of events and the time spans.

Answer: In 776 B.C., the first Olympic Games were held. In A.D. 393, the ancient Games stopped. In 1896, the first modern Olympic Games were held. In 1908, women participate in the Olympics. In 1924, the first separate Olympic Winter Games were held. In 2000, the Sydney Games were held.

* “The Olympic Games: Where Heroes Are Made” is an informational reading. How do the headings and subheadings support the main idea of the text? How do the captions help the reader make meaning of the text?

Answer: The headings and the subheadings let the readers know what they are going to read next.

The captions are the explanatory comments that help the reader understand the picture or graphic image. The caption gives information about what is visually being represented.

* Have students select one of the athletes from the text. After researching the athlete, write an acceptance speech for the medal that they received for their event at the Olympics. The speech must include at least five new facts about their life.
* Write a paragraph that tells which Olympic event you think you would most enjoy watching. Use details from the text to support why you feel this way.

Teacher Notes

* The very beginning of this selection points out important features of informational text to the students. Go back and

point these out to students if you have not already done so. Explain the author puts those structures in to make it easier to keep

track of all the information, and tell them you expect them to notice and use text structures in the future.

* Rereading for Fluency—Choral Reading

Choose a passage from the selection, and read it aloud to students as they follow along in their books. Model appropriate pacing and expression. Then have students read aloud the same passage chorally with you. Point out to students how punctuation helps you with phrasing, such as pausing briefly for a comma.

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**“The Olympic Games: Where Heroes Are Made”**

1. Why did Baron de Coubertin encourage the world to bring back the Olympic Games?
2. When and where were the original Olympic games held? How do we know?
3. In what way is the Olympic Flag a symbol for what the Games are supposed to do for people all over the world?
4. What happens first, second and last during the parade of nations?
5. How have the Olympics grown since the first modern Games in 1896?
6. How does the Olympic torch arrive at the Olympics?
7. What oath do the Olympic athletes take?
8. What details from Evelyn Ashford’s early track career help you know she was very fast?
9. How did Michael Johnson make running history twice?
10. What is a stroke in swimming? Explain how swimming strokes are connected to the changes in how swimming events in the first modern Games are very different from those of today.
11. What details does the author include to let readers know that Mark Spitz was a special swimmer even before he went to his first Olympics?
12. What did Lenny Krayzelburg accomplish at the 2000 Sydney games?
13. What are some of the new sports that have been added to the Olympics over the years?
14. What happens to the Olympic flag at the closing ceremony?
15. What is the creed of the Olympic Games?