

Lesson #1: 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics Opening Ceremony

Scope: One Class Lesson spanning 90 Minute Time Period

Rationale For Lesson: This lesson will provide students the chance to explore the cultural elements present in the opening ceremonies of the 2008 Chinese Olympics game.

Essential Question: How does a country choose to honor its cultural legacy as a host nation during the Olympics?

Students Will Be Able To:

- Identify the cultural symbols present during the opening ceremonies by completing a graphic organizer.
- Examine one symbol from the ceremony by completing a jigsaw activity.

State Standards Addressed

- Describe the cultural and scientific legacies of African, Greek, Roman, Chinese, Arab and European civilizations.
- Give examples of contacts among different cultures that led to the changes in belief systems, art, science, technology, language or systems of government.
- Describe the growth of cities and the establishment of trade routes in Asia, Africa and Europe; the products and inventions that traveled along these routes (e.g., spices, textiles, paper, precious metals and new crops); and the role of merchants.
- Establish guidelines, rules and time lines for group work.
- Reflect on the performance of a classroom group in which one has participated including the contribution of each member in reaching group goals.
- Describe the essential characteristics of the systems of government found in city-states, kingdoms and empires from ancient times through the Middle Ages.

Lesson Scope:

Opening Activity: (15 minutes) Students write answers to the following questions then discuss them and the following quote.

“If you’re not first, you’re last.” –Ricky Bobby

- 1) Do you agree with the quote?
- 2) Is winning everything in sports?
- 3) What is the difference between a good and a bad winner?

Gold: From which country did the Olympics originate?

Building Historical Context:(20 minutes)

Introduce the history of the Olympics by watching the BrainPop video followed by the completion of the activity sheet, which will build student understanding of the Olympics legacy.

<http://www.brainpop.com/health/personalhealth/olympics/>

<http://www.brainpop.com/health/personalhealth/olympics/activity/>

Beijing Opening Ceremony Breakdown: (45 minutes)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcqZfQ1f3J0>

Students will watch the opening ceremonies and then form groups in which they will become experts on one of the following categories. After becoming “experts,” they will then break into expert groups where they will teach one another about their cultural legacy by completing a graphic organizer.

- 1) Chinese Printing Legacy
 - 2) Chinese Musical Legacy
 - 3) Chinese Fashion Legacy
 - 4) Chinese Dance Legacy
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Final Student Share Out: (10 minutes)

In conclusion, we will whip around the room, hearing from each student

who will offer one take away from the day's lesson.

Further Reading

Olympic Dreams: China and Sports, 1895-2008 by Xu Guoqi.

Five Rings over Korea: The Secret Negotiations Behind the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul by Richard W. Pound.

Beijing's Games: What the Olympics Mean to China by Susan Brownell.