



*"If the only tool you have is a hammer.....  
everything around you looks like a nail."*

## Summer Olympics 2004

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The One and Only Surfaquarium

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With five months all the summer games in Athens, teachers looking for curricular tie-ins are already rearing to go. The XXVIII Olympiad is the one hundredth anniversary of the games, and it's a great chance to energize your classroom with all the possibilities for Social Studies, Language Arts, Math, Health and Science.

There are several popular approaches teachers take in presenting a unit that prepares students for the summer games:

- Have students research the history of the games, its traditions, past memorable moments and significant athletes
- Have students research the city in which the games take place, give them each a travel budget, and have them develop individual itineraries to attend the games based on the budget they have
- Have students research the events of the games, their nation's athletes participating in each event, and create a medal's tracking sheet they can use to track their athletes while following the games over the summer
- Develop Olympic events and ceremonies at school in place of a field day and have students participate for sportsmanship, excellence and medals
- Study the Olympics as an extension of a curricular focus on ancient Greece

One great approach to studying ancient Greece is through its architecture. What better time to consider having your class to participate in the [Art & Architecture Project](#)? Now with a rolling, open registration policy, you can have your students study your local architecture and create a virtual tour of your home town's homes and public buildings! See <http://surfaquarium.com/A&A/> for details and registration!

The resources below are offered to provide the backdrop and current events materials you will need to plan and prepare an awesome Olympics unit. Enjoy!

AIMS Classroom Olympics -  
<http://www.aimsedu.org/Activities/cOlympics/colympics.pdf>

Excellent set of Math-based activities on the Olympics in .pdf format. For further extension see A Measure of Greatness at [http://www.education-world.com/a\\_lesson/00-2/lp2148.shtml](http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/00-2/lp2148.shtml)

AIMS Water Olympics -

<http://www.aimsedu.org/Activities/cOlympics/colympics.pdf>

Four Science-based activities in .pdf format designed to explore the properties of water within the context of an Olympics theme.

All Info About Ancient Geography -

<http://classics.allinfoabout.com/articles/anctgeo.html>

Another great connection to Greece and the Olympics - geography! This site covers Italy, Greece and the eastern Mediterranean; nice look at the Phoenicians too.

All Recipes: Greek Food - <http://allrecipes.com/directory/898.asp>

More than five dozen recipes you can share with your students as part of a study of Greek culture; each recipe includes ingredients, directions and nutrition information for a tie-in to Health.

Amarandi Barrett's Greece 4 Kids - <http://www.greece4kids.com/>

An online picture book that covers everyday life in Greece through the eyes of this eleven year old young lady; charming and high-interest for kids.

Ancient Greece - <http://home.freeuk.net/elloughton13/greece.htm>

Snaith Primary School does a great job on all their themes, and Greece is no exception. This page offers a nice introduction of the city-state concept in Ancient Greece.

Ancient Greece - <http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/greeks/>

History for Kids presents this look at ancient Greek society, including History, Environment, Religion, Philosophy, Government, the Economy, Language and Literature and Architecture.

Ancient Greece in Elementary Schools -

<http://www.educ.uvic.ca/Faculty/sockenden/edb363/internetprojects/ancientgreece/index.html>

Lots of lesson ideas and information from the University of Victoria, British Columbia for teachers to make the most of their study of ancient Greece, including a special section on the Olympic games.

Ancient Olympic Games Virtual Museum -

<http://minbar.cs.dartmouth.edu/greecom/olympics/>

Dartmouth-based web site that offers a unique slant on stories behind the ancient games, including stories, anecdotes and slide shows. You must register (free) in order to view features.

Ancient Olympics - <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/Olympics/>

Wonderful comparison of the ancient Olympics and the Centennial Modern Games in Atlanta with plenty of substance provided from the Perseus Project; this is a first rate treatment of the evolution of the Olympic tradition.

Athens 2004 Olympic Games - <http://www.athens2004.com/athens2004/>

The official website of the ATHENS 2004 Olympic and Paralympic Games, this is the site for watching all the news and current developments now and over the summer.

Athens Greece Guide 2004 - <http://www.athensguide.org/>

All kinds of tourist-related information about the city of Athens, its history, shopping, entertainment, eateries, museums, transportation, as well as the Olympics.

Athens or Bust? Plan Now for 2004 Olympics -

[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/travel/2001344104\\_athens03.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/travel/2001344104_athens03.html)  
Elissa Leibowitz of the Washington Post offers this assessment of what it takes to plan a trip to Athens this coming August for the Olympic games. Must reading for itinerary makers!

Athens Survival Guide - <http://athensguide.com/>

Learn the ins and outs of visiting Athens through this easy-on-the-eyes site by Matt Barrett. Lots of practical information and advice for students planning an itinerary! Also see Matt's Athens

Olympics page at <http://www.greecetravel.com/2004olympics/>

BBC Schools - Ancient Greece -

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ancientgreece/main\\_menu.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ancientgreece/main_menu.shtml)

Covers Athens, Olympia and Corinth, as well as a timeline and a section on the Olympic games. Formatted in a cartoon-like style with information presented in concise chunks.

Classroom Clip Art: Greece -

[http://classroomclipart.com/cgi-bin/kids/imageFolio.cgi?direct=History/Ancient\\_Civilizations/Ancient\\_Greece](http://classroomclipart.com/cgi-bin/kids/imageFolio.cgi?direct=History/Ancient_Civilizations/Ancient_Greece)

Forty-nine pieces of free clip art for your use, including people, buildings, maps statues and actual photographs.

CoSport: Athens 2004 - <http://cosport.net/us/Athens2004Packages.asp>

CoSport offers the live data students need in planning their Athens itinerary on a budget. Information includes transportation and accommodations, as well as a schedule of Olympic Events!

Crayola: Ancient Greek Mask -

<http://www.crayola.com/educators/lessons/display.cfm?id=320>

Step-by-step directions on how to make a Greek dramatic mask using clay; standards-based with suggestions for extension activities - great for primary students!

Cretan or Classical Maze -

<http://www.gwydir.demon.co.uk/jo/maze/cretan.htm>

Jo Edkins presents the background of these mazes and offers strategies for creating your own; a nice Math and Art extension on your Greek studies.

Elysium: An Educational Project -

<http://library.thinkquest.org/26264/?tqskip1=1>

This ThinkQuest entry examines Greek mythology for an interesting, sometimes irreverent look at the history, culture and beliefs of the Greek people.

Gold Medal Olympics Activities! - [http://www.education-world.com/a\\_lesson/lesson201.shtml](http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/lesson201.shtml)

Education World presents these ten activities originally written for the last summer Olympics, including timelines, biographies, graphs and traditions.

Golden Tickets: Greece 2004 -

<http://www.goldentickets.com/item.asp?id=32&img=>

Great for planning an Athens itinerary, including not only travel and accommodations, but actual Olympics events by schedule and the opportunity to view seating at each event site.

The Greeks - Crucible of Civilization -

<http://www.pbs.org/empires/thegreeks/>

First rate PBS site that presents the contributions Greece has made to western civilization, including great interactive features, lessons and additional resources.

How to Make Gold Medals -

<http://www.kidsdomain.com/craft/goldmedal.html>

Kids Domain presents this straightforward set of directions for creating paper mache and ribbon gold medals for your school's Olympics ceremonies.

Journey through the Olympic Games -

<http://web54.sd54.k12.il.us/vrkit/supplements/sixth/Olympics/student.htm>

Dawn Moore has crafted this WebQuest that includes an Olympic time machine for students to use; the teacher assigns student groups each a different time period to learn how the Olympics have changed.

Kids Domain Online Sports Games -

<http://www.kidsdomain.com/games/sports.html>

More than two dozen online interactive sport simulations that allow your students to appreciate the skill involved in completing a variety of athletic tasks. Don't miss the Olympic Challenge.

Mr. Donn's Simulation Unit: the Ancient Greek Olympics -

<http://members.aol.com/MrDonnUnits/GreekOlympics.html>

The high quality materials you'd expect from the Donns, offering a nicely structured set of activities to help you plan your own classroom Olympics. See the Donn's companion site on Daily Life in Ancient Greece at <http://members.aol.com/Donnclass/Greeklife.html>

My Olympic Itinerary - <http://salem.k12.ma.us/sps/Olympics/itinerary.htm>

Students use the activity sheet found on this site to plan a six day trip to the 2004 Summer games in Athens while staying within a fixed budget; use the Word version to make adjustments for your class.

Nabisco World Sports Games -

[http://www.nabiscoworld.com/games/cat\\_sports.htm](http://www.nabiscoworld.com/games/cat_sports.htm)

More online sports simulations, including baseball, basketball, cycling, football and soccer. NB: Files need to be downloaded onto your computer in order for these games to work.

Nickelodeon games and Sports for Kids -

[http://www.nick.com/your\\_world/gamesandsports/play/index.jhtml](http://www.nick.com/your_world/gamesandsports/play/index.jhtml)

These Flash-based games include baseball, basketball, football and ice hockey. There are also garage games such as Balloon Stomp, the Hula Hoop relay and a Peanut Toss.

Nutrition Science and the Olympics -  
<http://btc.montana.edu/Olympics/nutrition/default.htm>  
Four units on nutrition including Fuel, Movement & Sport, Eat for Performance, US Olympic Athlete Profiles and Nutrition at the Olympics, as well as a nicely done Food Guide Pyramid.

Official Web Site of the Olympic Movement -  
[http://www.olympic.org/uk/index\\_uk.asp](http://www.olympic.org/uk/index_uk.asp)  
This site represents the International Olympic Committee, Organizing Committees of the Olympic Games, the National Olympic Committees, the International Federations, and the national associations.

Olympic Games: An Historic Event -  
[http://rims.k12.ca.us/score\\_lessons/olympic\\_games/](http://rims.k12.ca.us/score_lessons/olympic_games/)  
This SCORE project resembles a WebQuest in structure, challenging students to create an advertising brochure to be used by visitors to the ancient games and propose events for the 2004 games.

Olympic Museum at Lausanne -  
[http://www.olympic.org/UK/passion/museum/home\\_uk.asp](http://www.olympic.org/UK/passion/museum/home_uk.asp)  
Important showcase of the Olympic movement with a number of online features on athletes, sports and the games themselves.

Olympic Spirit in the New Millennium -  
[http://www.olympics.org.uk/Olympic\\_pack.pdf.pdf](http://www.olympics.org.uk/Olympic_pack.pdf.pdf)  
Presented by the British Olympic Association, this is a 60 page teaching guide in .pdf format including resources, teaching ideas, and holding an Olympic sport day at your school. For more ideas see  
<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/SSPEOOlympicsAndCountriesBackgroundsGoodIdea35.htm>

Olympic Web Quest - <http://www.berksiu.k12.pa.us/webquest/Verbeke/>  
Sherri Verbeke created this Quest to integrate math applications into an Olympics study; students determine the equation of a line given points they determine from their research.  
Olympics Through Time - <http://www.fhw.gr/Olympics/ancient/index.html>  
The Foundation of the Hellenic World presents this first class look at the Olympics through the ages, from prehistory through ancient times and into the modern movement.

Race for Olympic Travel Deals -  
<http://www.kiplinger.com/features/archives/2003/08/olympic.html>  
Sean O'Neill of Kiplinger.com offers options for locating travel and accommodations to Athens this August; some creative ideas that students may want to pursue in creating their itineraries.

The Real Story of the Ancient Olympic Games -  
[http://www.museum.upenn.edu/new/research/Exp\\_Rese\\_Disc/Mediterranean/Olympics/olympicintro.shtml](http://www.museum.upenn.edu/new/research/Exp_Rese_Disc/Mediterranean/Olympics/olympicintro.shtml)  
The University of Pennsylvania Museum offers this upbeat and accurate presentation on the ancient games; a great resource for comparing and contrasting against the modern movement.

Scholastic Electronic Learning: The Olympic Games -  
<http://teacher.scholastic.com/lessonrepro/lessonplans/theme/olympics01.htm>  
Excellent integration of Language Arts, Math and Social Studies across four lessons including Location, Location, Athletes Are What They Eat and The Olympic Symbols.

Scholastic Olympic Games Research -  
<http://teacher.scholastic.com/researchtools/researchstarters/Olympics/>  
Lots of basic information, nicely formatted and easily accessible for students. A good place to start for basic research on the Olympic movement.

Social Studies for Kids: Ancient Greece -  
<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/subjects/ancientgreece.htm>  
Ten sections on Greece including Athens and Sparta, the Persian Wars, and Alexander the Great. Internal links ensure quality and consistency across the site.

Sport science meets the Olympics -  
<http://whyfiles.org/019olympic/index.html>  
Long-standing and still active Why Files site that examines the ways technology is impacting on the age-old tradition of the Olympics. Check out Can a computer help your high jump?

Summer Olympics Through The Years -  
<http://www.infoplease.com/ipsa/A0114335.html>  
The Information Please Almanac offers this quick-reference grid that covers facts on all the summer games since 1896; winter Olympics are available too.

Ten Olympic Lesson Plans with Support Materials -  
[http://www.edgate.com/summergames/inactive/lesson\\_plans/](http://www.edgate.com/summergames/inactive/lesson_plans/)  
EdGate presents these ten lessons on the spirit and events of the games, including ready-to-print support materials in .pdf format.

Time for Kids: Greece -  
<http://www.timeforkids.com/TFK/specials/goplaces/0,12405,227674,00.html>  
TFK presents Greece in a child-friendly format, covering native language, sightseeing, ancient treasures, a history timeline, and a Greece challenge.

Unusual Sports in the Olympics - <http://library.thinkquest.org/J002862/>  
ThinkQuest entry that covers such unique summer events as Fencing, Tae Kwon-Do, Canoeing, Synchronized Swimming, Archery, Equestrian Competition and Water Polo.

USOC - <http://www.olympic-usa.org/>  
Official web presence of the United States Olympic Committee, offering news and background information on the upcoming games in Athens.

USOC 2004 Summer Games in Athens FAQ -  
<http://www.olympic-usa.org/CFDOCS/borg/newsTemplate.cfm?spID=75&newsID=332>

Frequently asked questions about the 2004 US team and individual athletes, great for helping students get a feel for the United States presence in Athens.

Find More Great Resources at <http://surfaquarium.com/it.htm>

Next Month's Topic: Biology Resources

You can email URL's of high quality sites which may be of interest to our readers as well as new topic ideas and input and feedback to [walter@surfaquarium.com](mailto:walter@surfaquarium.com)

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