

## **OLYMPIC MASCOTS LESSON PLAN**

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### **Description:**

This lesson will introduce students to the mascots of the modern Olympic Games beginning with Schuss, the unofficial mascot of the 1968 Olympic Games in Grenoble, France. Students will view mascots and attempt to match mascots with the Olympic sites they represented. Students will discuss their matches and explain why they chose a particular mascot for a particular site. Students will read and discuss an article from *USA Today* written by John Rice about the mascot of the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver British Columbia, Canada and write a paragraph on their opinion of the selection of the 2010 mascot. Finally, students will design a mascot for the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia or their own community and explain why this design would be appropriate for the site.

### **Grade Level:**

Can be adapted for K - 10

### **Subjects:**

English/Language Arts, Global Studies, Physical Education and Art

### **Duration:**

Two 55- minute sessions

### **Goal:**

Recognize the symbolism that exists in most Olympic mascots and use this to evaluate the 2010 mascot and to create a mascot either for your community or for the 2014 Olympics.

### **Objectives:**

The student will:

- Match mascots with Olympic sites
- Read and discuss an article on the 2010 olympics in USA Today
- Write a paragraph describing their opinion of the 2010 Olympics mascot
- Design a mascot for their community or for the 2014 Olympics in Sochi, Russia

### **Standards:**

This lesson meets state and NCSS standards

- Theme: 1.3 People, Places and Environment  
1.4 Individual Development and Identity  
1.9 Global connections  
1.10 Civic Ideals and Practices

### **Background Information:**

Students should be familiar with the Olympic movement either from their textbook or teacher discussion.

**Materials:**

- An overhead projector
- An overhead of Olympic mascots
- An overhead listing the locations of Olympic Games with mascots
- Several sets of cards with Olympic mascots on the front and descriptions of the mascot on the back
- Copies of *USA Today* articles on the Vancouver Olympics and if desired the 2014 Sochi Olympics
- Optional - art materials

**Procedures:**

1. You may do this individually or in groups of three.
2. Give students a handout with pictures of ten mascots or a deck of cards with a mascot on each one.
3. Place mascot pictures on an overhead (blank out Lake Placid on Roni) and a list of Olympic sites since 1968.
4. Have students discuss mascots either as the entire class or in groups. They will choose locations for each mascot.
5. Show overheads with mascot pictures, their locations and short descriptions of each one.
6. Students will correct their guesses as students read answers and stories orally.
7. Hand out the *USA Today* article on the mascot for the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, B.C., Canada.
8. Students will read the article orally and discuss the contents in class.
9. Each student will then write a paragraph describing their opinion of the 2010 mascot
10. Students will read a *USA Today* article on the selection of Sochi, Russia (2014 Winter Olympics). Students can read this individually or as a class and discuss.
11. Assign students to create a mascot for Sochi, Russia and write a paragraph explaining their creation.

**Assessment:**

Paragraphs can be corrected for form and content. Students can be tested on mascot information and information in the articles they read.

**Additional Note:**

A similar lesson and activity could be used with mascots of the summer Olympics. The location of the sites of the summer and winter Olympics could be placed on a map and analyzed for patterns, etc. Students could create a mascot for their community.