

WHO'S UP FOR THE OLYMPIC CHALLENGE?:
Integrating the 5 Themes of Geography with Olympic Bids

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Description:

This lesson integrates the five themes of geography (and more) with bids for the Olympics. Students will analyse and evaluate Olympic bids using the five themes of geography and key concepts underlying the geographic perspective. The proposal for the upcoming Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Games will be examined to identify reasons for the successful bid and students will create and present their own bid proposals for either the 2020 Summer Olympic or the 2022 Winter Olympic Games.

Grade Level(s):

Grades 9-12, and with adaptations for Grades 5-8

Subject:

Geography/ Social Studies/ Economics

Duration:

120-180 minutes

Goal:

To create a bid for the Olympic Games that reflects student understanding of key concepts of geography and economics and/or business models for proposals.

Objectives:

Students will:

- Analyse and evaluate Olympic bids using five themes of geography
- Analyse reasons for success of Vancouver/ Whistler as a site for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games
- Work together in pairs or small groups to create a bid for the 2020 Summer Olympic or the 2022 Winter Olympic Games
- Give a PowerPoint presentation before a mock selection committee (class) to win the bid over other proposals

Standards:

AP Human Geography College Board Standards

- I. Geography: Its Nature and Perspective
 - C. Key concepts underlying the geographical perspective – location, space, place, scale, pattern, regionalization and globalization
- VI. Industrial and Economic Development
 - B. Contemporary patterns and impacts of industry and development – industry, environmental change and sustainability; local development initiatives and government policies
- III. Cultural Patterns and Processes
 - D. Cultural landscapes and cultural identity–values and preferences, symbolic landscapes & sense of place

Background Information:

In previous lessons students will have applied the five themes of geography to the local community, region or state. Students will also have studied the history and goals of the Olympic Games. In addition, they will be tech-

savvy: competent internet researchers, users of Google Earth website, knowledgeable creators of PowerPoint presentations and familiar with the scoring rubrics for oral and multi-media presentations.

Materials/ Resources:

- computer and LCD / overhead projector
- if Internet access is unavailable, teacher will provide print-outs of bid proposals from www.gamesbids.com
- www.gamesbids.com; www.vancouver2010.com (2008 – 2014)
- www.earth.google.com

Procedures:

1. Introduce key question: *What geographic, economic and social conditions are necessary for a successful Olympic bid?* (NB: There are political reasons too, but these may not be explicitly stated and are therefore more difficult for students to identify). Explain that students will be examining the successful Vancouver/ Whistler 2010 bid and comparing it to other bids for the 2008 to 2014 Olympics. By identifying geographic, economic, and social reasons for success, they will then be able to create their own bid for a future Olympics.
2. Engage students in a presentation of Vancouver/ Whistler. Teacher will share a PowerPoint (Supplement to this lesson also available at http://www.k12studycanada.org/resources_lesson_plans.asp) that analyses Vancouver/ Whistler using the five themes of geography: location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, and region. It includes/incorporates geographic ideas of scale, pattern and globalization. During the presentation, students use the following table to record examples of the five themes and more.

Location	Place	H-E Interaction	Movement	Region	Scale	Globalization

3. a). Examine the Vancouver/ Whistler bid as a class: Teacher can share the Paul Henderson Vanoc 2010 PPT (posted at http://www.k12studycanada.org/resources_pp_presentations.asp) with students and/or present the Vancouver/ Whistler bid from: www.gamesbids.com/english/bids/vancouver.shtml. Categorize (according to the five themes of geography) PPT information and data from the Bid Questionnaire Highlights (dates, venues, athletes’ villages, accommodation, transportation, environment, security, experience, weather). Analyze the information further through questioning: What is impressive or appealing about this bid? Why might this bid have been successful? (Ask students to think specifically of geographic, economic and social factors).
 b). In small groups, look at other archived bids, 2008-2014: www.gamesbids.com. Use the five themes chart to quickly collect the information, determine the appeal of the bid, and analyse reasons for its success (or lack of success, i.e. it was not selected). The archives do provide some analysis for success that could be used in the analysis. Post the charts and have students circulate, or have students present their information.
4. In the same pairs or small groups, create a bid for the 2020 Summer Olympics or the 2022 Winter Olympics. Students should identify a location they think would be an appropriate Olympic venue and then create a bid in a format similar to the successful Vanoc 2010 bid (Bid City Profile and Fact Sheet/ Bid Questionnaire Highlights). The bid should be in Powerpoint format if possible; if not, visual aids such as overheads/posters could be used. Photos from online sources or Google Earth should be included.
5. Students will make formal presentations to the Olympic Selection Committee (the class) and students will vote on the bids. The vote can be formalized with criteria, scoring rubrics, and discussion/debate if time permits.

Possible Variation/ Extension:

For an Economics class, students could create a Business Plan for a business at a future Olympic site, or do an Economic Impact Statement for a past or future Olympics. Students could also compare the economics of the sustainability plan of Vancouver/Whistler to previous host locations for the Olympic Games.

Assessment:

Students are evaluated using a scoring rubric for the bid proposal / presentation.
(STILL NEEDED – I don't understand below)

Powerpoint/ Presentation	40 points
Rubric / 20	X2
Content/ Knowledge	
Integration of 5 Themes of Geography	
Style/ Creativity	
Organization	
Conventions	

Resources:

Useful websites for rubrics are:

- www.uwstout.edu/soe/profdev/pptrubric.html
- www.ithaca.edu/jwiggles/computers/ppt1_rubrics.htm
- <http://pblmm.k12.ca.us/PBLGuide/MMrubric.htm>