



OLYMPIC FEVER



Welcome to the second edition of “**Teaching Today**” by Titan Education.

It's only days until the 2008 Olympic Games begin in Beijing and all eyes will be on China, watching the best of the world's athletes compete. The Olympic Games is the world's greatest festival of athletic competition and international friendship. Athletes from all parts of the globe, and from all walks of life, gather in one place to realise their dreams and experience the glory of Olympic competition. The Olympics bring with them a host of educational opportunities, where students can experience the excitement, immerse themselves in the culture of the host city and learn about the values reflected in the Olympic Movement through history.

Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the Modern Olympic Games, regarded himself first and foremost as an educator. His aim was to offer a harmonious education of the body and mind, using sport, not just as a physical activity but as a means of educating people. According to this philosophy, the good sportsmanship, sense of fair play, and respect for fellow athletes that is developed through involvement in the Olympic Games, teaches men and women of different races, religions, and nationalities to work peacefully together toward common goals. The Olympic Movement hopes to expand such lessons beyond the sports arena in the hope of promoting peace and a sense of brotherhood throughout the world. Planning and teaching an educational unit based on the Olympic Games brings Coubertin's vision to life.

The Olympics therefore offers us an opportunity to plan a comprehensive cross curricular program combining sport with culture and education, incorporating the key values we aim to teach our students. In addition, by teaching a unit around the Olympic Games, students will develop knowledge and understandings about Australia's national identity and the place of sport in our society. They will learn about the diversity and contributions of people in their community and from around the world. It is a great chance to incorporate the Asian perspective in to our curriculum through teaching about China's language, culture, history, geography and customs.



In this “Olympic Fever” edition of “Teaching Today”, we have provided you with a range of lesson ideas as well as links to online activities and complete units of work.

We hope this assists you in making the most of this wonderful teaching opportunity.

Have you got a great idea?

We invite you to email us your ideas and activities for our next edition. If your activity is included, you will be acknowledged and rewarded with your choice of book from the primary Titan Education range. The next edition of “Teaching Today” will be titled: “Science in Schools”. If you have any great Science ideas, email them before the end of August to: subscribe@titaneducation.com.au



EDUCATION NEWS HEADLINES



Solar Grants for Schools

Environment Minister, Peter Garrett reminded Australia's 9000 plus schools that they now had the opportunity to become solar schools thanks to the National Solar Schools Program. Grants of up to \$50,000 are now available for the installation of solar power systems and other energy and water saving measures. Australian Labor Party, 22 July 2008.

Access through: <http://www.alp.org.au/>

Learning to Trade

Austrade's new education resource for grade 5 and 6 students aims to explain the importance of exports to Australia. It uses an animated cartoon and his robot guide to visit a range of scenes and explain globalisation issues, such as trade, communication, migration and culture. The animation is complemented by a book of activities. Herald Sun, 22 July 2008.

Access through: <http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun>

Movie based program a boost for struggling readers' literacy

Researchers from the University of Canterbury's School of Literacy and Arts in Education have just trialed a US-based reading program in six Christchurch schools. Struggling readers who took part in the program improved their reading age by 1.2 years in just six weeks. The program called Audio Visual Achievement in Literacy, Language and Learning is based on the use of movie subtitles to support literacy activities. Low achieving students in primary schools are enticed into books through "read-watching" of popular movies that are based on books. University of Canterbury, 18 July 2008.

Access through: <http://www.comsdev.canterbury.ac.nz/news/>

Keeping students safe

South Australian school teachers will be offered professional training in managing difficult and disruptive students through a new program called Your Classroom - Safe, Orderly and Productive, that is being rolled out to the State's schools. Government of South Australia, June 27, 2008

Access through: <http://www.ministers.sa.gov.au>



UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

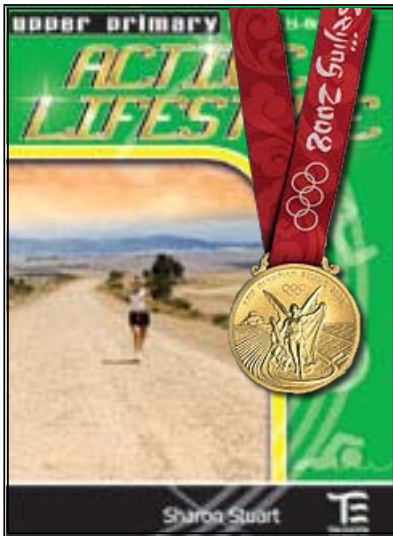


These are great opportunities for involving your students in meaningful and relevant learning experiences.

Date	Event	More information...
8 th August	Beijing Olympic Games	http://en.beijing2008.cn
15 th August	40 hour Famine	www.worldvision.com.au/40hourfamine
16 th August	National Science Week	www.scienceweek.info.au
22 nd August	Daffodil Day	www.daffodilday.com.au
1 st September	National Literacy and Numeracy Week	www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au
3 rd September	National Flag Day	www.flagaustrat.asn.au
6 th September	Paralympic Games	www.paralympic.org.au



FEATURED PRODUCTS

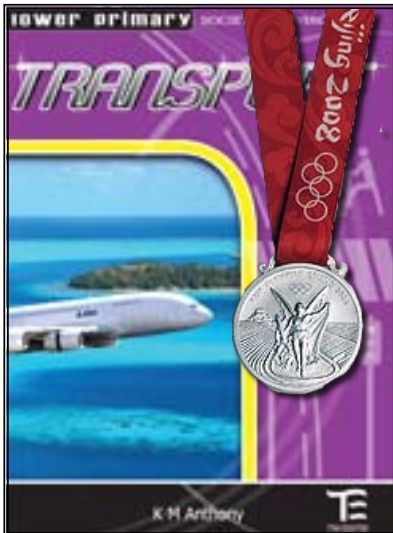


GOLD MEDAL BOOK: 30% OFF!

Upper Primary - Health & PE

Active Lifestyle

'Active Lifestyle' encourages students to adopt a healthy lifestyle through nutrition and exercise. A healthy, physically active lifestyle is more conducive to effective participation in all that society has to offer as well as achieving greater levels of success within and beyond school.



SILVER MEDAL BOOK: 25% OFF!

Lower Primary - Society & Environment

Transport

Throughout 'Transport', students are given opportunities to identify, interpret, demonstrate, analyse, hypothesise about, synthesise, and evaluate various aspects of the transport system and the transport vehicles employed locally and nationally. It encourages learners to recognise and appreciate that individuals, the community, and the environment, are not only connected, but also interdependent upon one another for survival.



BRONZE MEDAL BOOK: 20% OFF!

Upper Primary - Science

Inventions

Throughout 'Inventions', students learn to analyse, synthesise and evaluate different materials, and, as a result, become more actively involved in their own learning. They discover how inventions have changed over time and explore how inventions have affected societies.

**Don't forget, subscribers receive 10% of ALL other products. For lists of our other products visit our website:
www.titaneducation.com.au**

Interactive Online Activities

Home of the Boxing Kangaroo

www.bkzone.com.au

A site designed for primary school aged children including a range of interactive online activities such as chatting to Olympians online and following a real athlete's diary.

Olympic Drug Use Technology

www.teachers.ash.org.au/researchskills/drugQuest.htm

This WebQuest asks students to examine the Olympic motto "swifter, higher, stronger" and questions what would happen if performance enhancing drugs were used at the Olympics and how drug use affects competition and the notion of fairness.

Fair Competition?

www.globaleducation.edna.edu.au/globaled/go/pid/3613

This web quest designed for upper primary students asks the question; Do all countries have a chance of success in international sporting competitions?

Hero Message

Get behind the team as they compete at the Beijing Games. Send a text, picture or video message of support at www.telstra.com/hero

Letter Link

Participate in the Letter Link competition, where students write letters to the Athletes. Go to; www.auspost.com.au/letterlink where you can order your Letter Link envelopes, but will also find curriculum-linked lesson and activity ideas and student activity sheets.

Complete Units of Work

www.paralymiceducation.org.au

A range of lesson plans on the Paralympics.

www.afssse.asn.au/afssse_res/Geography1_67.pdf

An upper primary complete unit of work based on the Beijing Olympic Games with a geographical focus.

<http://corporate.olympics.com.au>

The Australian Olympic Committee's Beijing Olympic Resources include a range of activities for lower, middle and upper primary.

www.first-school.ws/activities/firststeps/olympics.htm

A unit of work based on the Olympic Games for ages 5-6 year olds.



TITAN TEACHING TOOL OF THE WEEK



A range of activities have been incorporated into an independent learning grid designed for middle to upper primary. This grid combines the principles of Blooms Taxonomy and a simplified form of Gardener's Intelligences to cater for a range of abilities and interest levels. The activities are varied and cover topics such as; the history of the Olympic Games, values and principles of the Olympic Games, exploration of China and the sports, athletes and specific features of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. This grid could be used as an independent contract where students select activities that interest them at their level, or alternatively, these activities could be incorporated into a more comprehensive unit of work.

	I enjoy English	I enjoy Maths	I enjoy Art	I enjoy Music	I enjoy making things
Knowledge	Find and read some Ancient Greek myths that explain how the Olympic Games started.	Learn to write Chinese numbers at: www.fi.edu/fellows	Draw the Olympic Flag and explain what the design and colours mean.	Find and write out the lyrics for three songs that have featured in the Olympic Games in the past.	Make models of the athlete's prizes at the Beijing Olympic Games.
Understanding	View pictures of the Beijing Olympic Mascots at http://en.beijing2008.cn . Choose one and write a description of it.	Choose one event and create a timeline that shows the records for that event over the history of the Olympic Games.	Draw or make a figurine of an athlete celebrating a Gold Medal win. Portray their emotion through body position and facial expression.	Research which musical instruments are traditional to China.	Choose one of the sporting venues in Beijing. Make a model to scale if possible.
Applying	Become a reporter for one sport for the duration of the Beijing Olympic games. Follow the sport and each week prepare a brief report to the class.	On a world map, show the countries that have hosted the Olympic Games.	Have a look at the range of stamps for the Beijing Olympic Games at: www.stampnews.com Design a stamp of your own.	Create a cheer that could be used to support the Australian athletes.	View the video of Chinese traditional sports at: www.bkzone.com.au . Choose one of the sports; make the equipment required to play this game and play this sport with your friends.
Analysing	Imagine you are a spectator at the Ancient Olympic Games in Antiquity. Describe a competition of your choice in the form of an article or comic strip.	Each week, using the medal tally, calculate the number of medals each country has won per participant. Is this a fairer method of ranking countries performance than the current tally?	View the pictograms for each of the sports at: http://en.beijing2008.cn . Design new pictograms for other activities in the classroom or sports not included in the Beijing games.	Pick three songs that reflect the Olympic values of friendship and teamwork and join them together to form a medley.	Research one athlete participating in the Beijing Olympic Games. Create a hero card detailing important and interesting facts about this athlete.
Creating	View the interactive explorer of Beijing's main tourist sites; www.olympics.com.au . Prepare a brochure to promote Beijing as a tourist destination.	Create a survey, graph and interpret the results of your peers favourite Olympic sport.	Design a different flag for the Beijing Olympic Games that incorporates the key values of the Olympic movement and some aspects of Chinese culture.	Rewrite and perform a new version of the Olympic Anthem to reflect modern ideals and language. The lyrics can be found at http://en.wikipedia.org .	Design a new outfit for the athlete of your choice. Take into account performance enhancing features, materials and comfort, but also the rules and regulations of that sport.
Evaluating	Evaluate the Olympic Motto; "Swifter, Higher, Stronger" and discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does this motto encapsulate the purpose and meaning of the games Come up with a new motto 	Plan a budget in Excel for someone who has \$2000 AUS spending money to see the major tourist sites of Beijing and go to some Olympic events.	Create a collage that conveys the meaning of either the Olympic motto; "Swifter, Higher, Stronger" or the Beijing Olympic Motto; "One World, One Dream"	In groups, choose a song and create a piece of movement that reflects a part of Chinese culture. Perform this at the "class opening ceremony".	Make puppets of the Beijing Olympic mascots and perform a play which reveals the mascot's characters and symbolic meanings.