

Language Arts

Curriculum Standards

- ▶ **Research**– understand the structure and organization of various research materials
- ▶ **Comprehension**– seek information not already discussed
- ▶ **Capitalization**– geographic names, holidays and specific events are capitalized correctly

Olympic Mascots

Introduction:

- ◆ Define an Olympic mascot as a character that personalizes and symbolizes the Olympic Games.
- ◆ Display a timeline of Olympic mascots.
- ◆ Students will create a mascot poster for an Olympic Games in the future.

Through:

- ◆ Ask students to identify a school, team or civic mascot and discuss how the mascot represents the school, team or neighborhood.
- ◆ Share information about the three Athens 2004 mascots. Note that Phevos, Athena and Proteas represent Olympic ideals, as well as the host country, Greece.
- ◆ Discuss modern Olympic ideals: peace and friendship, athletic prowess and good sportsmanship, effort and perseverance.

Beyond: Extensions

- ◆ Invite students to create a mascot poster describing a new mascot for an Olympic Games of the future.
- ◆ Students should select a location and research the location thoroughly to select an appropriate, indigenous animal mascot, research and write a brief factual description of the location and animal, write a brief, creative description of the mascot's personality and illustrate a poster with a picture of the mascot and the facts.
- ◆ Students should present their finished work with a short oral presentation.

Resources

- [Http://www.aafra.org](http://www.aafra.org)
- [Http://athens2004.com](http://athens2004.com)
- [Http://www.olympic.org](http://www.olympic.org)
- [Http://www.flags.com](http://www.flags.com)
- General research books such as encyclopedias, atlases and almanacs.