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.