Through Sports a Better World

The Olympic Oath

“In the name of all the competitors I promise that we shall take part in these Olympic Games, respecting and abiding by the rules which govern them, committing ourselves to a sport without doping and without drugs, in the true spirit of sportsmanship, for the glory of sport and the honour of our teams.”

- Host Country Map: Korean Peninsula
- Maps: PyeongChang Olympic Venues
- Olympic Note: Cheers — Soohorang
- Student Activity: Find Your 2018 Olympic News Story
- Olympic Note: Venues
- Student Activity: Olympic Games Winter Sports
- Post reprint: “Team USA is loaded, diverse — and the biggest in the history of the Winter Games”
- Olympic Note: Medals
- Student Activity: Start Off with the Right Lede
- Student Activity: Sky, Snow and Ice
- Student Activity: Talent, Politics, Education
The USA Team of 135 men and 108 women is the largest team any nation has sent to a Winter Olympic Games. Champions and veteran athletes from previous Games as well as promising young talent that made the 15-year-old or older requirement compete in 102 events.

Activities in this guide include reporting aspects of the Games to your school community and doing research on the 15 official sports. Students are also given a sampling of ledes to Olympic stories to analyze and discuss different approaches that writers take. Students are also asked to experiment writing the different lede types.

As nearly 3,000 athletes, their coaches, families and Olympic fans gather in South Korea we are reminded of the mission of the Olympics that goes beyond collecting medals. It brings together an international community that is asked to forget political differences and antagonism to cheer those who love a sport enough to give years to training and to celebrate and practice the best of sportsmanship.

As South Korea stated in its bid to be the 2018 host, “[w]ith PyeongChang’s strategic position in Asia, and its access to a young and fast growing youth market, the 2018 Olympic Winter Games will no doubt expose new generations of potential athletes to the power of winter sport.”
Korean Peninsula
Meet Soohorang. You will be seeing a lot of Soohorang February 8-25. The white tiger is one of two mascots of the 2018 Olympic Games and Paralympics Games in March.

White tigers are symbols in Korea’s folk tales. They are guardians who are strong and trustworthy. That protection will be good for the athletes and visitors.

Soohorang’s name is created from two Korean words: “Sooho” means protection. “Rang” comes from “ho-rang-i” that means tiger. And also from “Jeongseon Arirang” that is the traditional folk music of the region where the athletes will compete.

When you look at Soohorang do you see the snow and ice of PyeongChang in his white fur?

The first official Olympic mascot — a dachshund named Waldi — was created for the 1972 Munich Games.
Find Your 2018 Olympic News Story

When a large number of people gather, when people who have exceeded in their areas of expertise compete, when countries and corporations work together to encourage cooperation — this is news. The Olympic Winter Games are held every four years in countries where local Olympic organizing committees have worked to prepare venues, accommodations and infrastructure for thousands of athletes, their support groups, media and visitors. News stories abound and are waiting to be told.

Who
1. How many countries and athletes from each country will be competing in PyeongChang, South Korea? Who are the athletes that compete under the Olympic flag?
2. How do these athletes qualify to represent their countries? [Select three to five countries or sports to illustrate qualification approaches. Include team trials, individual competitions, records and world championships.]
3. Which nations will be making their Olympic debut in PyeongChang? In which sports will they compete? How have they financed the sports program prior to the Olympic Games? Who is paying for the athletes’ expenses during the Olympic Games?
4. Who are the standout Olympic individual athletes? Which teams are expected to medal?

Where
1. Locate South Korea on a map. What other countries are near to it?
2. Locate PyeongChang on the map of South Korea. How near is it to the capital city? What new transportation is available between Seoul and PyeongChang?
3. What geographic features must a country that hosts the Winter Olympic Games have? What made South Korea’s bid appealing to the IOC committee members?
4. Describe the Olympic venues constructed for the different sports. Where are they located? Do they have any outstanding features?

When
1. Events are held on Korean Standard Time (KST). When it is noon KST on February 9, what time and day is it in Washington, D.C.? How will this affect viewing of different sports?
2. Review the media companies that will be covering the Games. What time commitments have been made? What does this list indicate about coverage of the Games?
3. Find out which sport your classmates are most interested viewing. Write an article about the sport and include when and where they can view it live and taped.
4. When the medals ceremonies and Games are over, what happens to the star athletes? Select three to five athletes to represent different paths.
What
1. What are the 15 official sports of the Winter Olympic Games?
2. What new events will be introduced? Which will appeal to a younger international audience? Which might cross the gender divide?
3. In what ways do countries benefit from competing in the Olympic Games?
4. What innovations in technology will be utilized in the facilities? By the athletes? By media?

How
1. How is a country selected by the IOC organization to host a Winter Olympic Games? Explain the process.
2. How important are media companies to the success of a Winter Olympic Games?
3. Athletes such as America’s most decorated skier Lindsey Vonn, Micaela Shiffrin and Nathan Chen appear in advertising. How does this benefit the athlete? The advertiser?
4. How might use of the laws of science and the latest technology influence athletic performance?

Why
1. Why is it important for athletes from the world’s countries, no matter their form of government, to compete against one another? When have Olympic Games been cancelled? When have countries withdrawn athletes from the Games? Why have athletes been banned from competing?
2. Why do people, countries and corporations financially sponsor athletes? There are those who argue the money should go for food and medical needs within impoverished countries instead of for athletes who may have no chance to win a medal. Debate the issues.
3. Why are Winter Olympic Games held? Include the mission statement of Olympic Games in your article.
4. Why and to what extent should the International Olympics Committee oversee the safety and well being of participating athletes? Only at the Olympic Games? In international and national competitions? On the local level? As part of your response, review the Safe Sport initiative.
Olympic Games Winter Sports

Athletes will compete in fifteen official sports during the Olympic Winter Games. Get to know each sport through some research of the history of the sport in the Olympics, a short description of the sport, events or categories within the sport competition, and countries that have excelled in this sport in the last twelve years. Please add two more aspects of the sport that interests you.

- Alpine Skiing
- Biathlon
- Bobsleigh
- Cross-Country Skiing
- Curling
- Figure Skating
- Freestyle Skiing
- Ice Hockey
- Luge
- Nordic Combined
- Short Track Speed Skating
- Skeleton
- Ski Jumping
- Snowboard
- Speed Skating

Seven of the venues are new and six were refurbished. All were ready for use by late 2017. World cup skiing events were held here in 2016.

**Alpensia Mountain Cluster**
**Alpensia Resort**
PyeongChang, South Korea
PyeongChang Olympic Stadium
  - Opening ceremony
  - Closing ceremony
Biathlon Centre
Cross-Country Skiing Centre
Ski Jumping Centre
Olympic Sliding Centre
  - Bobsled
  - Luge
  - Skeleton

**YongPyong Alpine Centre**
PyeongChang, South Korea
Giant Slalom
Slalom

**Bokwang/Phoenix Snow Park**
Bongpyeong-myeon Township
Snowboard
Freestyle skiing

**Jeongseon Alpine Centre**
Bukpyeong Township
Downhill
Super-G
Alpine combined events

**Coastal Cluster | Gangneung Sports Complex**
Gangneung, South Korea
Gangneung Curling Centre
Kwandong Hockey Centre
Gangneung Ice Arena
  - Figure skating
  - Short-track speed skating
Gangneung Oval Complex
  - Speed skating
Team USA is loaded, diverse — and the biggest in the history of the Winter Games

by Rick Maese

The American contingent that starts pouring into South Korea for next month’s PyeongChang Olympics will feature seasoned veterans and past champions, familiar names such as snowboarder Shaun White, skier Lindsey Vonn and speedskater Shani Davis. The U.S. team will also include promising young talent, phenoms such as 17-year-old snowboarder Chloe Kim, 17-year-old short track speedskater Maame Biney and 18-year-old figure skater Nathan Chen.

And somewhere in the middle is an Alpine skier who might prove to be Team USA’s brightest star of all, Mikaela Shiffrin, entering the prime of her career with an Olympic title already in her trophy case and space in her carry-on luggage to bring back a couple more medals from South Korea.

The U.S. Olympic Committee announced its full roster of Olympians headed to PyeongChang, 243 men and women in all, the largest team that any nation has ever sent to a Winter Games. The previous mark was set by the U.S. squad four years ago, a 230-person Olympic roster.

The Americans will be trying to top their 2014 medal haul, which included nine gold medals and 28 overall (though that number will increase to 29 when American Katie Uhlaender’s fourth-place skeleton finish is upgraded after Russia forfeited a gold due to doping). Four years earlier, the Americans won a record 37 medals in Vancouver, including nine gold.

This year’s American squad ranges in age from 17 to 39 and features a mix of familiar faces and promising newcomers. The average age is 26, a half-year older than four years ago, but the group also includes six 17-year-olds.

A total of 103 athletes are veteran Olympians, including 37 returning medalists. Davis, snowboarder Kelly Clark and cross-country skier Kikkan Randall will all be competing at their fifth Winter Games.

Lindsey Vonn hopes to improve upon her two-medal haul from the Vancouver Games.

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Vonn, the most decorated female Alpine skier of all time, is headed to her fourth Olympics, having missed the Sochi Games because of a knee injury. “It’s been pretty brutal to wait for another Olympics,” she said Friday.

Vonn will be racing the downhill, super-G and combined in PyeongChang and hopes to improve on her Vancouver medal haul, which included a gold and a bronze.

“I feel like in Vancouver, I finally figured out how to approach the Olympics, how to deal with pressure, how to perform under the highest amount of pressure possible. And I want another chance,” she said during an online event announcing the team Friday. “I think my accomplishments on the World Cup have been more than I ever could have hoped for. But I think the exclamation point on my career — getting another Olympic medal — would be icing on the cake.”

Vonn made her Olympic debut at the 2002 Games. Chen was 3 years old then and just learning how to skate. He’s now a two-time U.S. men’s figure-skating champion and is considered a serious medal threat in PyeongChang.

“When I was 10 years old, I knew exactly that’s where my goal was at, that’s where my dream was at. It’s crazy to think that eight years later, here I am,” he said. “I made that dream happen. Ultimately, I’m just so excited that this is happening. I’m pretty confident going into these Games, knowing that I can do what I need to do.”

The U.S. Olympic Committee says this year’s squad is also its most diverse for a Winter Games. It includes the first two African American Olympic female speedskaters (Binay and Erin Jackson), the first African American hockey player (Jordan Greenway) and the first two openly gay male athletes (freeskier Gus Kenworthy and figure skater Adam Rippon).

The United States will be sending teams to compete in both the men’s and women’s Olympic hockey tournaments, albeit very different squads. The women’s team is a largely veteran group that has won the past three world championships and has been training together since August. Without the benefit of having NHL players, the men’s team is a ragtag bunch of minor leaguers, college players and Americans from leagues overseas. They won’t skate as a group until they land in PyeongChang, practicing together all of four days before games begin.

As usual, the bulk of Team USA comes from the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association: 22 Alpine skiers, 29 freestyle skiers and 26 snowboarders.

“More this year I’ve noticed of all the teams I’ve been on — I’ve been on quite a few world championship teams — for some reason when it was named yesterday I had this crazy feeling that this was the best team we’ve had,” said Resi Stiegler, who will be skiing at her third Olympics.

### MEDALS

Three consonants in the Korean alphabet rise and stretch across the face of each medal on the diagonal. Resembling the texture of tree trunks, the surface symbolizes the work that was required to develop Korean culture and the current Games.

Designed by Lee Suk-woo, the beauty of the obverse is matched on the reverse with the Olympic rings and the discipline, event and PyeongChang 2018 emblem.

The medals hang from light teal and pale red ribbons of Gapsa, a traditional Korean fabric. They are embroidered with Hangul patterns and other designs.

The PyeongChang Organizing Committee President Lee Hee-beom said the 259 sets of medals “perfectly encapsulate our culture and the Olympic values. We want the medal to be a symbol of the Republic of Korea and the wonderful memories that the athletes will take home from their time here.”
Start Off with the Right Lede

Athletes know how important it is to set their feet in the correct position, to be in the right frame of mind and to have practiced and trained. Writers also know the importance of the lede of their compositions, the clarity of purpose and the mental exercises that hone their skills.

The lede is the first one to five paragraphs of a composition that establishes the topic. In traditional news stories, readers expect to find the Who, What, Where, When, How and Why of the news in the lede. Variety ledes are used for soft news and feature stories. Ledes provide information, set up the scene, create tone and grab the readers’ interest to keep reading.

Ledes may use description, quotations and questions. They may provide an anecdote, an allusion or historic perspective to set up a relationship or express an attitude. Comparison and contrast between time periods, athletes or sports may establish the structure of the entire essay. Lists, time and chronological order may follow a lede that begins with an example.

The headline, a photograph, lede, and URL is given for each article. Answer the following questions after reading the headline, photograph, caption and lede of each one.

Headline 1:
1. Was the headline a complete statement or a phrase? [Note: We did not include subheads.]
2. What do you expect to learn in the article after reading the headline?
3. What information or attitude does the photograph add?
4. What kind of lede is used?
5. Do you think the lede is an interesting introduction to the subject? What other kind of lede might have worked as well or better than the one used?

Headline 2:
6. Was the headline a complete statement or a phrase? [Note: We did not include subheads.]
7. What do you expect to learn in the article after reading the headline?
8. What information or attitude does the photograph add?
9. What kind of lede is used?
10. Do you think the lede is an interesting introduction to the subject? What other kind of lede might have worked as well or better than the one used?

Headline 3:
11. Was the headline a complete statement or a phrase? [Note: We did not include subheads.]
12. What do you expect to learn in the article after reading the headline?
13. What information or attitude does the photograph add?
14. What kind of lede is used?
15. Do you think the lede is an interesting introduction to the subject? What other kind of lede might have worked as well or better than the one used?
16. Which lede captured your interest? Use the URL to find the article to read. *Summarize the rest of the article.*
17. Were there any surprises or unexpected twists in the article?
18-20. Select a topic or person to write about — maybe a classmate, a student athlete, someone who lives in your neighborhood. Perhaps a team, club or event in your school. Write the lede to an article about your chosen subject.
Sky, Snow and Ice

The Sky’s the Limit

Chloe Kim’s appeal is easy to understand. With a snowboard strapped to her feet, she can twirl and flip and generally send eyeballs rattling in sockets better than any teenage girl who ever has set foot on snow. A four-time X Games champion, she already might be an Olympic medalist if rules didn’t bar her from competing at the Sochi Games four years ago as a 13-year-old.

But talent is only part of the equation. Kim comes equipped with a bubbly personality — candid, eager and relatable — and a Korean heritage that makes her marketable at home and abroad. NBC long ago tabbed her as one of the faces of the PyeongChang Games, featuring her in a promotion that aired during the Super Bowl. Nike plans to feature her in a campaign on the ground in South Korea this month, and among her myriad sponsors is a South Korean-based cosmetics company. Oh, and she speaks English, French and Korean.

Where have all the American skaters gone?

GANGNEUNG, South Korea — Kimmy Meissner spent her childhood trying to keep up with three older brothers in soccer and lacrosse, so they’d let her join their teams. After figure skating became her passion, she tried keeping up with the best in the world.

“I definitely wanted to push the sport a little bit technically,” says Meissner, 28, explaining the impact of seeing Japan’s Miki Ando practice a quadruple jump at her first junior world championships, in 2004. “I thought, ‘I need to push myself. I need to start going for it.’”

The result catapulted Meissner to gold at figure skating’s 2006 world championships. She also became only the second American woman (after Tonya Harding in 1991) to land the risky triple axel in competition.

On the ice, these women rock

LONDON, ONTARIO — American curling champion Tabitha Peterson has heard it all: Anyone can curl. My grandmother can curl. The Swiffer sport. Housekeeping comes to the Winter Games.

“Everyone thinks they can go to the Olympics in curling because they think it’s so easy,” she says, shaking her ponytail. She’s sitting in a nearly empty banquet room in a western Ontario ice arena, dressed in gym clothes, which would be curling attire.

Peterson, 28, is heading to the Olympics for the first time after playing for almost two decades, because that’s how long it takes to make curling look easy.

A sport played on ice with a 42-pound stone and a broom — which, yes, resembles a Swiffer, a $200 Swiffer — curling has long been the Rodney Dangerfield of the Olympics.
Talent, Politics, Education

Mikaela Shiffrin is the world’s best woman skier — and worried that’s not enough

The numbers are plain, and they lay out the case that’s as easy to argue as the sky is blue or rock beats scissors. Mikaela Shiffrin is the best female Alpine ski racer in the world. Not yet 23, she is on a pace that could leave her as the most decorated World Cup racer ever. She already owns one Olympic gold and will be favored to win two more — with potential beyond that — when the PyeongChang Games begin Friday. What are her limits?

Shiffrin’s ability and her accomplishments validate her confidence. Still, when she climbs into the start gate, she can be surprisingly vulnerable. She believes in herself, for sure, but she is the rare elite athlete who will tell you, quite flatly, that pressure can be palpable.

Pence trip to Asia, Olympics aimed at countering NKorea

WASHINGTON — Vice President Mike Pence’s six-day swing through Asia, anchored by a stop at the Winter Olympics in South Korea, is set to focus less on sports than the host country’s bellicose neighbor to the North.

Pence departed Monday for Alaska, Japan, and South Korea, aiming to ensure North Korea doesn’t “hijack” the games as it participates on a joint team with the South, in the view of the White House. He’ll hold symbolic events of his own to highlight the North’s human rights abuses and nuclear ambitions, according to White House officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to preview the trip publicly.

Pence tweeted Friday: “I’ll travel to Japan & S Korea to attend the Olympics & cheer on our athletes.”

What is life like for South Korean kids? Busy.

You might not give people on the other side of the world much thought because you figure that their lives are a lot different from yours.

As the Winter Olympics in PyeongChang approaches, however, you might wonder what life is like for kids in South Korea. The answer: very busy.

While a typical school day can be tough for students in America, the educational culture in South Korea can make it seem like a breeze.

“I had a lot of pressure from school, education-wise, like a typical Korean household,” said Jackie Yoo, 25, who was born in America but moved with her family to South Korea at age 4 and remained there through high school.


https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/pences-approach-to-troubles-in-white-house-he-wasnt-there/2018/02/05/e8bac99a-0a36-11e8-998c-96de18cca19_story.html?utm_term=.7ca9aad94ff9