



## Teacher's Notes: Winter Olympics

**General Tips:** The goal is to build background knowledge while leading an engaging discussion on any and all information that can be talked about on a given page. The items that you choose to bring up or focus on can be modified for the students you are working with. For example, if you have a student who can point to something in the picture, answer yes/no questions be sure to incorporate a lot more of that as you go through the book. On the same token, be sure to ask a lot of comprehension questions and critical thinking questions at the level appropriate for students working on those skills. There is something for everyone.

**Addressing problem solving:** Throughout the e-book, help students identify the problems that are involved and choice making opportunities throughout the article.

**Page 1:** The Winter Olympics just started. The Olympics are in different countries each time. This year the Winter Olympics are in South Korea. There is North Korea and South Korea. We have Special Olympics here, don't we? What happens at special Olympics? **Questions:** Where are the Olympics this year? When is Winter? What is winter like? What are some sports that people only do in the winter? What year is it now? What is a mascot? What is the mascot for the Winter Olympics? What is the white tiger? **Point:** eyes, eyebrows, mascot, tail, nose, South Korea, USA

**Page 2** The Olympics are very special. People from countries all over the world have athletes that compete for their country. Each country sends their best athletes to compete in the Olympics. The US has athletes that will go to the Olympics. Canada has athletes, Japan, Germany, etc. (repeat many different countries who "have athletes who will go to the Olympics". There are also a lot of people who like to go to the Olympics and watch the competitions. People who go to the Olympics watch the games. See all of the flags at the top? Those are flags from many different countries. People from all over are going to go and see the Olympics. See the circles? Those are the Olympic rings. They are round like a ring. Those are a symbol for the Olympics. The mascot is also a symbol for the Olympics. **Questions:** Will people from the US go to the Olympics to watch? Does everyone go? Will people from "X" go to watch the Olympics? (repeat using different countries) Are the Olympic rings a symbol for the Olympics? What is a symbol for the Olympics? **Point:** Olympic rings, flags, people. **Problem solving:** How will the athletes get to the Olympics?

**Page 3:** An athlete is someone who plays sports. The athletes at the Olympics will be from many countries. Some will be from the U.S., Japan, Canada, France, etc. Hockey is a sport. Most of the athletes will fly in an airplane to get to South Korea. They are flying there to compete. Hockey players hit a puck. They use a hockey stick. They wear a helmet. **Questions:** How will the athletes get to South Korea? Have you played hockey? Do you know anyone who plays hockey? What is an athlete? Are you an athlete? Are you in the special Olympics? **Point:** airplane, hockey players, puck, stick, ice, skates

**Page 4:** One of the winter sports that is part of the Olympics are competitions with ice skating. The lady in the top picture is figure skating. She is an athlete, she knows how to ice skate very well. She is the best ice skater in her country. Figure skating is when you ice skate in a way that is like dancing. They play music while they figure skate. It is amazing to watch. See the man below? He is a speed skater. He is really good at ice skating very fast. Speed skating is like a running race, except the person is ice skating. **Questions:** Do some athletes speed skate? Do some figure skate? Do some golf? **Point:** speed skater, ice skates, ice, figure skater **Problem Solving:** Where do you think the athletes will stay while they are in South Korea?

**Page 5:** Some athletes like to compete in skiing events. They put skis on. They go down a mountain. All of the Athletes who go to the Olympics want to win. Have you ever won a competition at the Special Olympics? It's fun to win. There are different skiing competitions. Some skiers go over jumps, some try to go down the mountain really fast. **Problem solving:** How do the skiers get to the top of the mountain? **Video: Ski lift** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wVJtLOH7TbU> **Questions:** Do you ski? Do you know anyone who skis? Is there snow on the ground? Do you need snow to ski? What do skiers have on their feet? What is a chair lift?

**Page 6:** The Olympics have a certain day that they start and end. They started on February 9<sup>th</sup>. They go for about 2 weeks. See the flag? That is a flag for the Olympics. Do you see the Olympic rings? Do you see the year on the flag? **Question:** What is the date today? When did the Olympics start? What day of the week was that? (ask calendar questions). **Problem Solving:** If you wanted to go to the Olympics, where would you go? When? Where would you stay?

**Page 7:** The Olympics is a very, very old tradition. The Olympics have been going on a long, long time. They started in Greece. Then the torch goes to the country where the Olympics will be. This time the torch goes to South Korea. The people in South Korea take the torch all over South Korea in a relay. A relay is when one person runs with the torch for awhile and then there is another person waiting for the runner to hand off the torch. Then that person runs with it and hands it to someone else. (set up a relay in your class to show what a relay is) The relay ends on the day of the opening ceremony for the Olympics. A ceremony is when they have a special event to say that the Olympics are starting and to welcome everyone. Torches are lit from the one that has been in the relay. It is part of the ceremony.

**Video:** Torch relay starts in Greece, then went to South Korea.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhzdTmb4pUg> **Questions:** What is a torch? What is a relay? Where did the torch relay start? Where did the Olympics start? **Point:** torch, Olympic rings, ceremony, fire, torch.

**Page 8:** It is winter, and so it is very cold in South Korea. Usually the Winter Olympics are in Japan. This year they are in South Korea. There are always a lot of security people at the Olympics or other big events. Some people were kind of worried because a lot of the security people got sick with the flu.

**Problem Solving:** What happens if someone is sick? The security workers can't work at the Olympics right now. They are sick in bed. A lot of times the flu goes around in the winter. When you have the flu, you have a fever, sometimes a sore throat, runny nose, coughing (act out the symptoms of being sick-ask everyone to cough, sneeze, feel their head for a fever, etc.). The military is going to work for the security guards since they are sick. **Questions:** Have you seen security before at events? Why are they there? Can you ask security people questions? What is the flu? Why is that man in bed? Why does he have a Kleenex? **Point:** snow, steps, sick person, kleenex

**Page 9:** Most people can't go to the Olympics. The Olympics are in South Korea! Many people want to see the Olympics. **Problem Solving:** Why can't some people go to the Olympics? What can they do if they can't go there, but want to see the games? The Olympics are on TV. You can watch them on TV. It is fun to see! It's exciting to see who wins and what country they are from. When an athlete wins a competition that means that they are the best in the world at that sport. They were competing with the best athletes from many countries. The winner gets a gold medal. Winning a gold medal at the Olympics is so exciting for athletes. Do people win medals at the Special Olympics? Yes they do! It's exciting.

**Questions:** Where can you see the Olympics? What is a gold medal? What do people do with gold medals? **Point:** medals, TV, popcorn

**Olympics Theme Song:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BSyw06cGIJ8>