



An innovative project that provides themed activities and allows classrooms around the globe to connect and share learning.

Hosting the Olympics

Background

Every two years, cities around the world make bids to the International Olympic Commission (IOC) to host the Olympic Games. Originally most Olympics games, especially the Winter Olympics, were selected on the strength of being a popular place for winter sports like a ski resort. Today, cities are selected through a much more rigorous process.

Any city that wants to host the Olympic Games puts in its name to the IOC and is considered an "Applicant City." For the next ten months, the IOC investigates the city on several points:

- 1) The city must prove that it is big enough to handle the Olympics. With the games come a huge number of tourists, athletes, journalists, and politicians. They must show that they can host the games in new stadiums and venues, they must house all the people in adequate hotels, and they have to transport everyone from one place to the next with a reliable mass transit system. They also need to show that they can handle the high level of security needed at the games.
- 2) The city needs to convince residents that the expenses of covering the Olympics (which may be covered by raising taxes) are worth it in city improvement and new jobs.
- 3) The cities needs to maintain a highly positive media exposure to carry the games. Fourth, the tangible effects of hosting the Olympic games may not prove beneficial if the bid committees do not exercise proper judgment in developing the city to host the Olympics.

If the IOC decides that a city has fulfilled the three points above, the city is considered a "Candidate City" and goes into the second phase of the process. After submitting an application and an application fee, the IOC makes a final judging on which city is the best candidate for the coming Summer or Winter Olympic Games.

Guiding Question

What makes a city "Gold Medal" material for hosting the Olympics?

Lesson Sequence

- Log in to Discovery Education and open up the [Interactive Atlas Map](#). (Located under the Teacher Center tab on your Discovery Education Homepage)
- Tip: Open the map as early as possible, as it has hundreds of resources, so loading tends to take a little bit of time.
- As a class or in partners on their own devices, explore at least two past and current host countries of the Winter Olympics (found on the handout attached) in the Interactive Atlas Map. Instruct students to write down qualities, or criteria that seem important for the Winter Olympics location.
- Give students copies of the graphic organizer, "Developing Criteria." With a partner, have students use the information collected to cite criteria for the Winter Olympics location and give reasons supporting their answer based on the research from the Interactive Map.
- Share out as a class.



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Activities

Option 1 - Watch the video segment ,*[Argentina: Olympic Committee Meeting](#). Instruct students to think about the countries from the lesson. Now, using the information from the Argentina segment, students pretend to be members of the Olympic Committee selecting the next host for the Winter Olympics. Use the [interactive Atlas](#) for help locating countries/cities if necessary. Give students a chance to share out their country/city, having them cite evidence why their country/city would make a great host.

Option 2 - Create a board in Board Builder explaining what it takes for a country to be an Olympic host, providing examples of possible candidate countries/cities and why they would be great selections.

Want More?

*Scholastic.com http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/athens_games/speech.htm

*Activity Village:<http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/olympic-games>

Hosting the Winter Olympics

The Winter Olympics take place every four years in a location selected by the Olympic Committee. Imagine that you serve on the National Olympic Committee for the United States or Canada. You have been asked to select a location for the Winter Olympics in your country.

Cities that have hosted the Winter Olympics in the past include Vancouver, British Columbia; Turin, Italy; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Nagano, Japan.



A ski jumper soars above the crowd in Salt Lake City at the 2002 Winter Olympics.

Use Discovery Education's Interactive Atlas to locate the former host cities and the current host city. Look at each city's characteristics and complete the chart below, citing your reasons for each criteria you selected.

DEVELOPING CRITERIA

Based on the information about the Winter Olympics and the former host cities, what are six criteria for a good host location? List them in the table below, and explain why you would use these criteria to select a host city.

Criteria	Reason