
World Olympics

Preparing Students for a
Multicultural and Multireligious World

A CURRICULUM DEVELOPED BY TANENBAUM FOR GRADES K-6



Imagine a more peaceful world that respects difference.
We are committed to making that vision a reality.

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The Olympic Oath

Unit 5, Lesson 4

Objectives: Children will learn about good sportspersonship and write an agreement of good sportspersonship for their final classroom or school-wide Olympic Games.

Skills: Teamwork; Literacy; Critical Thinking

Grades: K-6

Materials:

- Chart Paper
- Pencils
- Olympic Athlete's Oath (included)

PROCEDURE

Introduction: Ask the children: *Have you ever watched a show or sports game in which your favorite sportsperson or artist played? Have you ever performed in front of an audience? How did it feel? How does it feel when someone cheers for you? How does it feel when someone boos or is disrespectful?*

Step One: Making connections to respectful behavior, ask the children if they can think of how the agreements of respect they came up with earlier extend to sports and the playing field. Explain that good sportspersonship means supporting and respecting each other, even when you are competing with another person.

Step Two: Have students fill out a chart of what good sportspersonship looks/feels/sounds like. Direct them towards specific behaviors that they can do (shaking hands, patting each other on the back, saying "Good game!" or "Congratulations!").

Step Three: Ask the children if they know what an oath is. Explain that an oath is a commitment to behave in a certain way. For example, before becoming doctors, men and women must make a commitment that they will do their best to care for all people. Read the Olympic oath that follows after this lesson. Taking the Olympic oath means that all the athletes who compete in the Olympics commit to acting in the spirit of good sportspersonship.

Step Four: Review with the class what they have read about the opening ceremony. During the opening ceremony of your class or school Olympics, your class will read out an agreement of good sportspersonship. (Note: We recommend using an "agreement of good sportspersonship" rather than an oath to represent an inclusive and student-centered spirit of this activity. In addition, taking an oath may have a particular connotation for some students who may be precluded from taking oaths due to religious reasons).

Facilitate this activity in the following way:

First, ask the children what they believe are important statements that should be included in an agreement of good sportspersonship, using previous lessons about teamwork, helping each other, being good fans and good sportspeople. Write all of the statements made by the children on the board. Next, ask the children to put the statements in the order that they would like them to be presented. Finally, ask the children if there is anything missing that they think is important and should be included.

When the class decides that the agreement is complete, ask for a volunteer to copy it from the board onto a piece of poster paper that can be decorated by the rest of the class. The class may also wish to choose volunteers to read the agreement aloud at the Olympic Games.

Step Five: Now break the children up into smaller groups. Each group should be made responsible for designing a skit about good sportspersonship and fair play. Give the children approximately five minutes to come up with their skit and then have them present these to the rest of the class. The class can vote on the skit that they like best and have that group perform the skit at the opening ceremonies.

Putting Good Sportspersonship into Practice

Have students vote on one or two practices of good sportspersonship they would like to use in their own Olympic Games. For example, professional athletes will often shake hands after a match or say "well played." Students can adopt this practice whenever they are playing games.



The Olympic Athlete's Oath

In the name of all competitors, I promise that we shall take part in these Olympic Games, respecting and abiding by the rules that govern them, in the true spirit of sportsmanship, for the glory of sport and the honor of our teams.