

# WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

## UNIT OVERVIEW

The “*Winter Olympic Games*” unit looks at ten different sporting events that take place at the Winter Olympic Games. Students study the information about the sporting events as they read the newspaper articles included in this unit. Students practice using different reading, writing, research, and language arts skills as they complete the activities in the “*Winter Olympic Games*” unit. This unit is divided into three sections. Section One includes a series of lessons designed to provide students with interesting facts and information about different sporting events. Section Two includes a number of optional lessons that teachers can use to supplement the main lessons of the unit. Section Three provides suggestions for major projects that the students can complete during the unit or when they have finished the main lessons of the unit. A book display should be set up somewhere in the classroom. A wide variety of books on the Olympic Games and the different sporting events at the Winter Olympic Games should be included in the display. Students refer to the books during the course of the unit.

## SECTION I – LESSONS

Section I contains ten structured lessons dealing with different sporting events at the Winter Olympic Games. Students read a series of newspaper articles, use books from the classroom display, and use the internet to complete the activities of these lessons.

- 1) Alpine Skiing
- 2) Biathlon
- 3) Bobsled
- 4) Curling
- 5) Figure Skating
- 6) Hockey
- 7) Luge
- 8) Nordic Combined
- 9) Snowboarding
- 10) Speed Skating

## SECTION II – OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

The optional activities provide teachers with flexibility in teaching the unit. They can replace activities in the main lessons, be used as review, or provide students with enrichment.

- 1) Research an Olympic Sport
- 2) Travel Brochure
- 3) Winter Olympics Trivia Game
- 4) Debate
- 5) Athlete Diary
- 6) Video
- 7) What Sport Am I? Riddles
- 8) Word Search Puzzle
- 9) Crossword Puzzle
- 10) Sample Exam

## SECTION III – MAJOR PROJECTS

The major projects can be completed by the students individually, with a partner, or in small groups.

- 1) Winter Olympic Games Research Scavenger Hunt
- 2) School Winter Olympics

## REFERENCES

# OLYMPIC NEWS

## Volume 3 Issue 1 – Alpine Skiing

### ALPINE SKIING IS A POPULAR EVENT AT WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

Alpine skiing is an exciting and popular Winter Olympic sport. Athletes participating in the alpine skiing events at the Winter Olympic Games are not afraid of traveling as fast as they can down a ski run. They try to build up as much speed as possible while skiing down the runs. Athletes want to ski down the runs in the shortest amount of time in order to win gold. At the start of the run, there is a thin fiberglass wand that runs across the knees of the athlete. Once the athlete pushes across the wand, the clock starts timing the length of the athlete's run.



### ALPINE COMBINED IS FIRST MEDAL EVENT IN ALPINE SKIING AT 1936 WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

Alpine skiing was first introduced as a demonstration sport in 1924 at the Winter Olympic Games in Chamonix, France. It did not become a medal

sport until 1936 at the Winter Olympic Games in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. Men's and women's alpine skiing was introduced with the alpine combined event. In 1948, at the Winter Olympic Games in St. Moritz, Switzerland, the downhill and slalom events became a part of the alpine skiing program. The giant slalom event was added at the 1952 Winter Olympic Games in Oslo, Norway. The super giant slalom event did not become a part of the Winter Olympic Games until 1988 when the games were held in Calgary, Canada.

### SPEED AND CONTROL REQUIRED TO WIN GOLD IN ALPINE SKIING EVENTS

There are five events for men and five events for women in alpine skiing at the Winter Olympic Games. The events for both men and women include the downhill event, the slalom, the giant slalom, the super giant slalom, and the alpine combined. Both men and women follow the same rules for each event but they ski down different courses.

The downhill event involves speed. Athletes only have one chance to complete a run. The athlete with the fastest time is the winner. The course for the downhill event is the longest course of all the alpine skiing events. Athletes reach the fastest speeds in this event. The downhill course is marked with gates and

## ALPINE SKIING

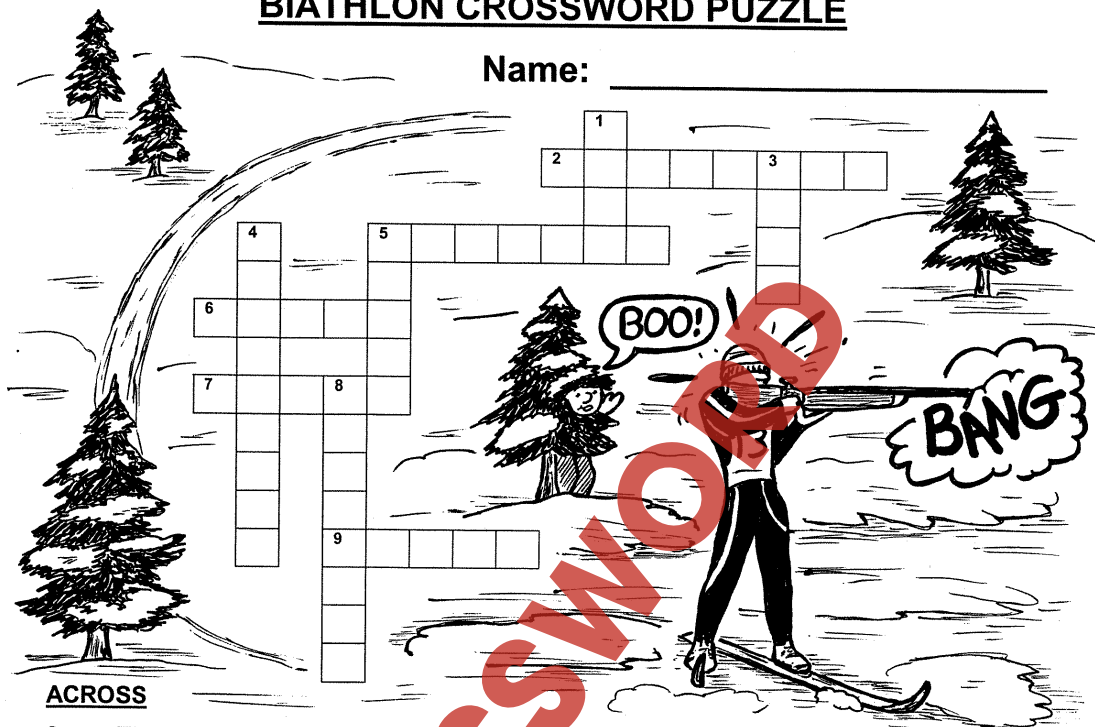
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences:

- Why do athletes try to build up speed going down the runs in the alpine events?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What was the last alpine skiing event to be added to the Winter Olympic Games program? What year was this event added?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- How are the slalom event and the giant slalom event similar? How are they different?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What event is known as the 'Super-G'?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Do you think 'gate bashing' should be allowed at the Winter Olympic Games? Give three reasons to support your answer.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## BIATHLON CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



### ACROSS

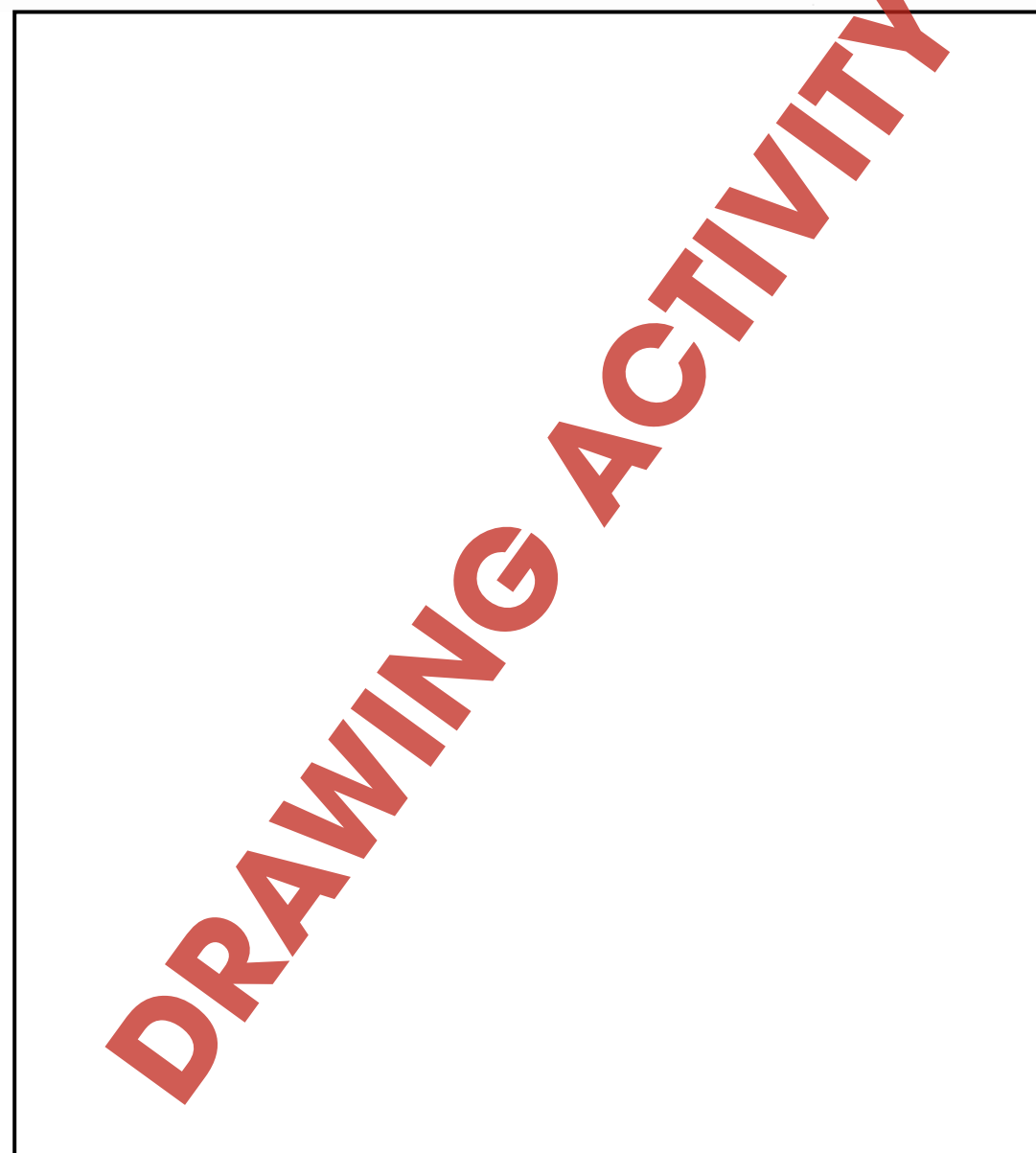
- The \_\_\_\_\_ combines cross-country skiing with rifle shooting.
- Targets used by athletes in a prone position are \_\_\_\_\_ than targets used by athletes in a standing position.
- Athletes shoot at targets from a \_\_\_\_\_ position and from a standing position.
- The biathlon was introduced as a \_\_\_\_\_ sport during the 1960 Winter Olympic Games in Squaw Valley, USA.
- Four athletes each ski 7.5 kilometres in the \_\_\_\_\_ event.

### DOWN

- Athletes shoot at \_\_\_\_\_ targets at each stop.
- Athletes ski a 150 metre penalty \_\_\_\_\_ if they miss a target in the sprint event.
- Athletes carry their rifles in \_\_\_\_\_ on their backs.
- The targets are made of wood and \_\_\_\_\_.
- The biathlon combines speed and \_\_\_\_\_.

## BOBSLED DESIGN

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



### BOBSLED TRUE OR FALSE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Print 'true' or 'false' after each statement. If the statement is 'false', rewrite the statement making it 'true'.

- The bobsled event tests athletes' co-ordination and strength as they race down the bobsled course.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- The winners of the bobsled events are often the teams with the fastest start times.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- A boblet is a bobsled that holds four men.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- The bobsled and luge drivers share the same track.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Athletes have 15 kilometres to get into their sleds before the clock starts.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Bobsled teams need to go high on the walls or they will flip their sled.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- The bobsled run is made out of concrete that is covered with layers and layers of ice.  
\_\_\_\_\_

### SNOWBOARDING SURVEY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

SURVEY QUESTION:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Survey Results for Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Classroom \_\_\_\_\_

RESPONSE	TALLY	TOTAL
Yes		
No		

Graph For Classroom \_\_\_\_\_

Yes										
No										
	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100

### Winter Olympics Trivia Game

**Question:**

What are the five alpine skiing events for men and women at the Winter Olympic Games?

**Answer:**

The five events are the downhill, the slalom, the giant slalom, the super giant slalom, and the alpine combined.

**Question:**

How is the course of the giant slalom event different from the course of the slalom event?

**Answer:**

The course of the giant slalom event is longer and the gates are farther apart than the gates in the slalom event.

**Question:**

What is gate-bashing?

**Answer:**

Gate-bashing is when athletes push aside gates in order to maintain as straight a line as possible when skiing down the hill.

**Question:**

What is the penalty for an athlete who misses a target in a biathlon sprint?

**Answer:**

Athletes must ski a 150 metre penalty loop if they miss a target.

**Question:**

Which targets are larger – the targets for shooting from a prone position or the targets for shooting from a standing position?

**Answer:**

The targets for shooting from a prone position because it is easier to hit a target lying down than it is to hit a target standing up.

### WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

A. Answer the following questions in complete sentences:

- What are the two ways that an athlete is penalized for missing a target during a biathlon event?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Why is luge a dangerous sport?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What are the names of the four members on a curling team?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Why do players get penalties in a hockey game?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What two sports are a part of the Nordic Combined?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## FIGURE SKATING WORD SEARCH

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

S T J L Z M H Y G D M G L B J N A C I M  
 E P C U U X S F A C K O W J O D O V N I  
 R O I S M I H N E L A H V I Q M H S T N  
 U R I N N P C C C L J V T E P K E H E Y  
 G C W G S I S B N M O A H U M I C G R G  
 I U L K N D T V A W T N L N P E G A P A  
 F E E G M Z G I D N D S V S N I N X R R  
 S E T A K S K E E Y O Z X B R O K T E E  
 O F B V R U L S B R Y D S M N I L S T I  
 B T F Q B L E P Y B U F U C S Y A R A Z  
 T D G L B R A R T I S T I C W Q I P T T  
 L C N L P F O O T W O R K U I A C X I Z  
 M A R G O R P L Q A N S W S O V E R O E  
 V X J C M G R Y O R I G I N A L B Y N S  
 S K A T I N G R W C Y Q A N J F U E K D  
 V L A C I N H C E T P S U J A X J V J X

ARTISTIC  
 COMPULSORY  
 DANCE  
 DANCING  
 FIGURE  
 FOOTWORK  
 ICE  
 INTERPRETATION  
 JUMPS  
 MOVEMENT

MUSIC  
 ORIGINAL  
 PAIRS  
 PRESENTATION  
 PROGRAM  
 SINGLES  
 SKATES  
 SKATING  
 SPINS  
 TECHNICAL



ANSWER KEY

## #5 – FIGURE SKATING

### Objectives and Activities

Lesson Five provides students with an overview of figure skating at the Winter Olympic Games.

Students read about figure skating.

Students complete the worksheet entitled, "Figure Skating Word Search".

### Recommended Teaching Strategies

Provide each student or pair of students with a copy of the *Olympic News – Volume 3 Issue 5* newspaper. Encourage the students to read over the newspaper a number of times.

Give each student a copy of the word search puzzle. Students complete the puzzle.

### Answer Key:

J L Z M H Y G D M G L B J N A C I M  
 C U U X S F A C K O W J O D O V N I  
 I N N P C C C L J V T E P K E H E Y  
 W G S I S B N M O A H U M I C G R G  
 L K N D T V A W T N L N P E G A P A  
 E G M Z G I D N D S V S N I N X R R  
 T A K S K E E Y O Z X B R O K T E E  
 B V R U L S B R Y D S M N I L S T I  
 F Q B L E P Y B U F U C S Y A R A Z  
 G L B R A R T I S T I C W Q I P T T  
 N L P F O O T W O R K U I A C X I Z  
 R G O R P L Q A N S W S O V E R O E  
 J C M G R Y O R I G I N A L B Y N S  
 A T I N G R W C Y Q A N J F U E K D  
 A C I N H C E T P S U J A X J V J X