

# The History of the Olympic Truce

## Grade Level(s)

4-7, 8-10

## Subject Area(s)

Social Studies

## Links to Vancouver 2010 Education Program Component(s)

Olympism

## Activity Description

Student will research the Greek Olympics of antiquity and the concept of the Olympic Truce. Students will first receive some background about the ancient games, examining differences in participants and the scale of the Games. Discuss how this notion of competition brought together people in the ancient world. Students will then research the idea of the Olympic Truce, comparing the ancient Truce to the modern one found in the Olympic Charter. Use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the modern Olympic Truce with the ancient one.

In order to connect with the present day, use the newspaper to identify different conflicts taking place in the world today. Have these conflicts impacted participation in recent Games? What issues do these conflicts bring forth with regards to the Olympics? What is the purpose of the modern day Olympic Truce? How effective is the Olympic Truce? When do sports bring people together and when do they divide people? Students can write a report or essay responding to one or several of these questions.

## Learning Outcomes

Students will understand the relevance and significance of the Olympic Truce in today's society. This lesson is aligned with the theme of Olympism. Students will also develop their writing and research skills.

## Resources Needed

Internet/library access for research.

## Duration of Activity

3-4 - 75 minute lessons

## Cognitive and Affective Domains

Cognitive – Analysis

Affective - Valuing



## Assessment Strategy

Teachers should formally evaluate the students' understanding of the Olympic Truce by evaluating their written response to issues of the Olympic Truce.

