

Carry the Olympic torch

The Olympic Games is all about a time of truce between warring peoples and co-operation. One symbol that has come to mean so much is the carrying of the Olympic flame in the form of a torch. Or is it?

First find out as much about the Olympic Games as you can, trying to find out if it was a time of co-operation or rivalry. Also try to find out where the tradition of the Olympic torch came from.

To make a safe torch, get a battery torch and some white tissue paper, Use sticky tape to fasten one edge of the paper to the rim of the torch and then twist the rest of the paper up over the torch lens to make a twisted shape that ends in a point.

Now switch the torch on.

Everyone should stand at different, and equally spaced, points around the school grounds. One person starts in the classroom with the lit torch. They hand it on to the next who runs off to the next person and so on until everyone has taken part in the relay. The last person runs back to the classroom with the torch.

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Background

The Olympic torch is today a symbol of the Games. It gives an opportunity to research the Games and discover that the Olympic torch is a modern invention, even though it now starts off outside the ancient temple of Hera at Olympia.

This gives a further opportunity for helping students to understand that they have to separate fact from fiction, checking their sources every step of the way. The point of doing the torch carrying in class is that it gives an opportunity for inclusive involvement, no matter how uncompetitive some students may be, for there is no competition here, but at the same time the idea of running a relay invokes the spirit of this athletic event.