Introduction to the Olympics

1) **Warm-up:** *What do you know about the Olympics?* anticipation guide, discuss their answers. Don’t give answers, tell them they will find out during class, all the answers are in the handouts.

2) **History of the Olympics in Ancient Greece**

Play 5 minute video: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8ztMlmavBw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8ztMlmavBw)

Games were held every 4 years for 1170 years, then banned in 394.

3) **Modern Olympics and adding the Winter Games**

Pass out info and chart.

Discuss facts on handout about Pierre de Cubertin in 1896. Winter games were added in 1924. Look at Chart: Ask them what they notice about hosting countries. Only 10 countries have ever hosted. USA is the only to host 4 times. It is a difficult and expensive process to “bid” to host.

4) **Sochi and the Medals**

Play 2 minute video: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGeNjrzzjdG](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGeNjrzzjdG)

Russia has never hosted before. There are concerns if they are ready and secure.

5) **The Motto, Flag, and Torch**

Discuss from handout and play 4 minute video: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jamkdVGTE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jamkdVGTE)

6) **Wrap-up**

Watch the opening ceremonies this weekend. You never know when world history will be made at the Games. We will be tracking the medal count and athletes in class. We will discuss great stories you hear about. We will be watching *Chariots of Fire* at lunch. For extra credit you may write an essay on one of the themes of the movie…the effect of the Olympics on national pride and politics, religious discrimination of the time, or what inspires athletes. More info will follow on this.
What do You Know about the Olympics?

1. What civilization started the ancient Olympics?
2. What year did our modern Olympics start?
3. Have the Olympics ever been cancelled?
4. What country is hosting this year’s Olympics?
5. The Winter Games were always part of the Olympics. T F
6. Any country can host the Olympics is they want to. T F