

Theme: Sports & Competition

August

Lesson Plans A La Mode

Beijing will be host to more than 10,500 athletes, competing in 28 sports. Twenty thousand media outlets will spread the news around the globe. Millions of eyes will watch the action and will see China for perhaps the first time. What can you learn about China from reading the coverage in the newspaper? List five facts you find in the articles.



Millions of people will watch the summer sports competition taking place in Beijing, China, in August. They'll see the joy of winning and the pain of losing on the faces of the competitors. Use your e-edition search tool or the index to find the coverage of the competition. Read about the winners and losers. Write a letter of comfort to someone who didn't win the gold.



The competition in Beijing may be covered in your newspaper. If you're reading an e-edition, use the Search tool and type in "Beijing" to find the stories. Skim your Sports section. Count all the stories and then count how many are about the sports in Beijing. Compute the percentage. Can you show this in a pie chart?



Science plays a part in all sports. For example, kayaks and canoes are built to cut down on friction so they move swiftly through the water. But friction also helps to keep the boat from tipping. Look through the newspaper to find other examples of how friction impacts summer sports.

National Learning Standards:

McRel (Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning) Standards:

Language Arts

Standard 7 Uses reading skills and strategies

Benchmark 7 Writes in a variety of forms

Math

Standard 2, Benchmark 2, Understands equivalent forms of basic percents

Social Studies

Geography, Level 2, Benchmark 1, Knows how the characteristics of places are shaped by physical and human processes

Science

Level 3, Benchmark 4, Understands the effects of balanced and unbalanced forces on an object's motion, and forces such as friction will cause changes in speed and direction