

## 2018 Winter Olympics

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If you are anything like me, you are super excited for the upcoming Olympic Games. These 2018 Winter Games are taking place in South Korea and there are tons of resources out there. My problem - no one seems to want to share resources for older students; they all want to charge for them. My goal is to create and share a series of activities for older students.

Because this doesn't really fit anywhere specific, I'm going to leave this link here for [Sharon Watson's page](#) with some creative writing prompts related to the Olympics and winter sports.

### Geography:

South Korea - There is a great study available by [BookShark](#) on South Korea right now. You will have to sign up for it but I feel like it is a good study.

[Sonlight](#) has a comparison study on North Korea and South Korea. Again, you will have to give an email but there is some good information and the comparison is excellent.

I am also taking a video based approach and we are going to view these:

[Where is PyeongChang? \(Home of 2018 Winter Olympic Games in Seoul\)](#)

[Places in South Korea](#)

[Landscapes of Korea](#)

[More Landscapes of South Korea](#)

[National Anthem](#)

Buchaechum (Fan Dance):

[Video](#)

[History](#)

[More History](#)

Don't miss the Opening Ceremonies. There is a lot of culture, music, dance, and tradition that typically are presented during the Opening Ceremonies. Looking up flags for the countries, finding them on a map, and noting the athletes chosen to carry the flag are all interesting ways to keep attention during the ceremonies. We often do a flag search during the ceremonies and it is always fun.

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## Olympic History:

Access the [Winter Olympics](#) site for a lot of great information.

The [Olympic torch](#) is always interesting to read about. You can do a science lesson (how do they keep it lit in all kinds of weather?), a design lesson (must look good but still be functional), and a geography lesson (trace the path of the torch) all without too much work. We have done a simple craft in the past, as well, that was fun.

Each Olympic host creates a [mascot](#) designed to represent them in some way. A quick research project of the current mascot will yield some interesting information about South Korea.

Challenge your students to create their own mascot - for themselves, family, city, or country. Your choice. Have them design and describe why they chose their mascot and what it represents. Adding a written component to this part is easy - just write down the description and/or why.

There is an [official emblem](#) for the 2018 Olympics and the design is interesting. Read more about what was created and why. Then perhaps challenge your students to create their own emblems to represent them or their families or another gathering they want to commemorate.

There are newly designed [medals](#) for each Olympic Games. These are simple but very pretty. If your students were to design their own medals, what would they look like? If you notice on the site, there is some information about the metals contents. This could be an interesting comparison place and add some math in there, too, by creating a chart to show those comparisons. Talking about percentages of purity, changing those percentages to decimals and fractions, and looking at weights are all options for looking at the numbers. Setting up a scale to show their weights can show measurement.

## Sports:

There will be 102 golds to be claimed at the 2018 Winter Olympics, according to the Olympics website. Each sport requires different skills, training, equipment, and understanding. There are lots of opportunities here! Research, design, and development are all important parts of each sport.

Each of the winter sports challenged in the Olympics is featured on [this page](#). There is a short history of the sport about halfway down the page. There are also some biographies about some of the athletes to watch in each sport.

NBC has a fantastic set of videos that deal a bit with the science of some of the sports. These are good videos. Click over there to learn about the [science of the winter games](#).

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Options for this arena include the norms - research paper, art project showing the sport, or craft project of recreating it in pipe cleaner or pom-poms. Something of that sort, you know? But what if you went one further? Create a challenge out of it!

## **STEM Challenge -**

### Bobsled/skeleton/luge -

- create a track for a marble that will take at least 15 seconds for the marble to go down (perhaps from split paper towel tubes or wrapping paper rolls?);
- draw a “track” on the ground with painters’ tape and use an ice cube to go through the course, maybe put a little lego guy on top
- Design a sleigh, testing how well it holds up to friction across the floor or gravity on a downhill slanting book

### Cross-country skiing

- Have a race across the floor with a piece of paper under each foot and keeping them on the ground at all times
- Make some fake snow and create a cross-country track in it, thinking about what challenges might be met

### Alpine skiing

- Create a downhill slope and race little figures on it
- Experiment to create a slope that will work the best, considering types of materials you have on hand and things like severity of the slope
- Create a slalom course with gates marked; design a way to race figures through the course (perhaps hanging from a rope on a pencil?)
- Design a course to go through on your bicycle or skates or skateboard.

### Figure Skating

- Imagine a routine to your choice of a piece of music and show it with a figure or doll
- Design the costume for a performance, remembering that it must complement the music and performance
- Create your own movement piece to a song and perform it
- Try “ice skating” by placing a piece of paper under your feet and dancing to music

### Freestyle Skiing/Snowboard

- Using a ball, try to recreate some “jumps” or “turns” on a halfpipe made from a wrapping paper tube cut in half and sloped.
- Using one of the tiny skateboards that were popular not too long ago, create a freestyle routine on a slope or halfpipe you have designed.
- Make a board for this style of skiing out of legos and show off some moves that you create.
- If you have a skateboard or roller skates or rollerblades, show off some things you can do.

### Ski Jumping

- Using materials around you, design and build a ski jump. Test it out using a figurine, a marble, or a ball. After finding what it can do, redesign it so your test will go farther.

### Bi-athlon

- Create a course that required some physical exertion followed by a precision activity. For example, run a specified distance and then try to hit a target with a nerf gun. Or perhaps you can do some jumping jacks and sit-ups then have to go throw a ball and hit a target. It is all up to your imagination here and what you have around you.
- Tag team an activity similar to above - one person does the run, a second the precision throws, a third the run again, etc.
- Set up a nerf gun shooting range (or whatever you feel comfortable with) with different distances for the targets. With a timer going, see how many shots can be made.
- If you have a field with high grasses, it would be a great way to get a feel for the drag of cross country skiing. Putting that into the mix for this activity would be neat.

### Track Racing

- Many activities already mentioned for cross country skiing and ice skating would be good here. Add a timer and a course.

### Curling

- If you have a relatively smooth floor, mark out the circles for curling, grab a broom and a plastic lid and see if you can get some curling going on.
- If you need to do it on a table top, add a piece of paper the length of the table. If it doesn't work well, have them brainstorm ways to create a surface that will work better. Perhaps something like cornstarch would make things go smoother, too. Use a small brush or create one out of paper (great challenge!). You might need to use the lid of a milk jug for a smaller table but what a great way to have the kids put on their thinking caps.

### Hockey

- I guess this one is obvious but there are many ways to go about this.
- Set up a hockey game in the yard with wrapping paper sticks and a ball. (I guess more like field hockey but hey, I live in TX.)
- Go find a gym you can use and find a lid that will slide on the floor easily.
- Have the students experiment with creating a puck - what makes it slide, what weight do you need, what helps it or hinders it, etc.