

PREDICTING THE FUTURE

This lesson will introduce students to the ways in which traditions have changed throughout the history of the Winter Olympic Games.

CONTEXT

100 years ago in 1924, the first Winter Olympic Games took place. In 2024 we are celebrating the centennial. Throughout this time, the Games have undergone major transformations. New traditions have been introduced, designs have changed, and for the first time in history the number of female athletes is expected to equal that of male athletes. We have yet to achieve this in Winter Games, however - slightly fewer female competitors will be at Milano Cortina in 2026. This activity encourages students to reflect on the ways the Games have changed over the last century, and predict what the bicentennial celebration might look like in 2124.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

1. Understand that the Olympics adapts to cultural shifts and responds to global events.
2. Gain an appreciation for Olympic history.

MATERIALS

Primary Sources:

Photos from the “100 years of Olympic Games” graphics.

Secondary Sources:

“200 Days to Paris 2024” by Sam Peene, linked down below.

PROCEDURES

- Learn how Paris 2024 differs from the last hundred years of Games by reading [this](#) article.
- Compare the elements of the 1924 and 2024 Olympic Games using the provided graphics.
- Split the students into groups to create a centennial celebration for 2124. Have them choose a location, design a torch and uniforms, and create a plan for how to power their Games.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Have students build a presentation around their creations and predictions to share with the rest of the class. Include how design choices were influenced by themes of their Games, or where their Games are being held. Discuss how their chosen location has a suitable climate for the Winter Games, and how that region is going to provide power to run the Games.