

2010 Olympic Torch Relay
SCHOOL KIT

LANGUAGE ARTS



SCHOOL PROGRAM
PROGRAMME SCOLAIRE

Bring the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay to Your Classroom.



CREATE
A BETTER CANADA



classroom resources

» language arts





This winter, Canada will be a little brighter

On October 30 2009, the Olympic Flame will reach Canadian soil and begin its journey. The Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay will cross Canada touching each coast, province and territory. As it weaves its way through our communities it will ignite our national pride and act as a rallying point for Canadians. By celebrating all of the 2010 Olympic Torchbearers we demonstrate how any one of us can create a better future for our families and friends and our country. So how can you experience the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay?

Join us when the Olympic Flame lights up your community

Approximately 12,000 Canadians will carry the Olympic Flame across the country with millions more cheering and supporting them. You are encouraged to come out and cheer on the torchbearers as they make their way across Canada.

1,036 communities across Canada will have the opportunity to host the Olympic Flame as it travels across Canada. 187 of these towns will host celebrations so that friends, relatives and neighbours from near and far can join in celebrating the Olympic Spirit and share in the experience of the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay.

To find the list of community celebration sites and a map of the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay route, please visit www.vancouver2010.com/torchrelay.

When you're at the community celebrations don't forget to check out the RBC Create a Better Canada Experience where you can meet RBC Olympians, have your picture taken with an Olympic Torch, play interactive games, and learn about sustainable living.

Finally, all Canadians will be able to follow the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay across Canada on www.rbc.com/carrythetorch. There will be daily photos from the relay, stories about torchbearers and links to learn more about RBC's commitment to Canadian athletes and the development of strong and healthy Canadian communities.



**CREATE
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How to Host a Torch Relay in Your School

Imagine seeing your students pass a torch between one another. Picture their proud faces carrying a torch as they see their excited classmates cheering them on in your school yard. Create a school-based torch relay with your class or entire school community and feel the Olympic Spirit come alive! The Olympic Flame has the power to reach and inspire every student in your class and school and you are the one that can bring them this memorable activity.

There are many exciting elements of an official Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay to incorporate when hosting your own school-based torch relay.

- Decide the size of your torch relay – The event could be as big or small as you make it. Will your torch relay include only your class or your entire school? Will the activity span a class period, lunch time or a day.
- Assemble your team – Your school-based torch relay will likely take fewer than the 100 staff members required to coordinate the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay. But you may need to involve a team of fellow staff members or parent volunteers.
- Plan your relay route – Engage your students in designing your relay route. Be sure to consider safety, overall length, length of each relay segment, room for spectators to cheer and the impact of weather!
- Choose your modes of transport – During the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay, the Olympic Flame will travel via many different modes of transportation from canoe, to dogsled, to skate board, to cross-country skis. Allow your students to get creative and select their own method of physical activity or transportation to actively move through their section of your relay route.
- Create a torch – Run a class or school wide contest to design and build a torch. Encourage the students to design a torch that symbolizes something about your school, city, province or Canada. Have your students each carry their own torch during their leg of your torch relay or pick a winner to be carried by your class or another torchbearer in the school. Encourage creativity!

Use tissue paper, paper towel rolls, tin foil, flashlights, pylons, dollar store toilet plungers, etc., to make your torches. Needless to say, it is strongly recommended that open flame is not used for school-based torch relay.

- Select your torchbearers – Participation is the key. 12,000 Canadians will get the opportunity to carry the Olympic Flame in the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay. The more students you can touch by appointing them as official torchbearers in your school-based torch relay, the greater the chance of making a life-long impact with this experience. Try to incorporate all of your students as torchbearers if you can!
- Celebrate Canada's diversity – As the Olympic Flame will pass through every province and territory, take the opportunity to celebrate and learn about the culture and diversity of the 1,036 communities touched by the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay. Incorporate some of these elements showcasing the diversity of our Canadian landscape and culture in your torch relay.
- Host a celebration of your school community – Over the span of the 106 days of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay, 187 community celebrations will take place. These celebrations will honour the torchbearers, community leaders, local heroes, teams and volunteers involved in the relay. Use this opportunity to celebrate various people and aspects of your school community.
- Have fun! – A school-based torch relay is an incredible opportunity for you to make the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games and the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay come alive for your students. Use this moment to create an once-in-a-lifetime experience for your students.



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Language Arts (Elementary)

The Olympic Flame will light the sky over Vancouver during the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. But not before the flame has traveled 45,000 km.

In ancient Greece, people would gather in Olympia for one month every four years for the Olympic Games. Athletes would compete in sports in honour of Zeus. Many people would come to participate in the festivities.

Messengers would run to all the cities announcing the Olympic Games. They would declare a truce. People had to stop all wars. This peace let the athletes and spectators travel safely to Olympia.

Games were held there in 1896. Greek runners will pass the flame on to a runner from the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

The Olympic Flame will then fly to Canada. A special security lamp will keep the flame lit. That way the passengers will be safe during the flight.

The Olympic Flame will arrive in Canada 100 days before the start of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games. The trip will begin in Victoria. Then the flame will travel nationwide, as far north as Alert and as far east as Cape Spear. The last stop is in Vancouver.

Truce. The flame will represent peace, friendship and unity.

Canadians from across the country will have the chance to be Olympic Torchbearers. Anyone over the age of 13 can apply. 12,000 Canadians will be chosen to carry the Olympic Flame. That way, every part of Canada will feel like a part of the torch relay. We will all be united by our national pride and excitement about the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

The flame will likely pass close by your hometown. When it does, your town might have a big celebration. It will be your chance to show the rest of Canada and the world how proud you are to be Canadian.

The relay ends on the first day of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games. The last runner will light the Olympic Cauldron at the Opening Ceremony.

The flame will burn brightly throughout the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games.



The flame that lights the Olympic Cauldron in 2010 will come from Olympia. There, women acting as priestesses will use a curved mirror to light the flame with the sun's rays.

The first runner will take the flame from the ancient ruins to the city of Athens. The first modern Olympic

More than 12,000 people will carry the Olympic Flame. It will travel by foot, wheelchair, float plane and bike. It will even ride in a canoe and on a horse!

Like the ancient Greek messengers, the torch relay will spread the news that the Olympic Games are coming. It will spread the news of the Olympic



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The Olympic Torch Relay – The Values Behind the Flame

Purpose

The Olympic Torch Relay promotes the values of peace, unity and friendship. This lesson will help students appreciate the history of the torch relay and how the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay will promote these values.

Learning Outcomes

- Creatively represent ideas, thoughts and concepts
- Use speaking and listening to develop the thinking process, acquire new ideas and make connections

Pre - Learning Activity

Ask your students to brainstorm a list of games that are played at school. From this list, choose one that would lend itself to a discussion of the Olympic values of peace, unity and friendship. Discuss how the selected game demonstrates these values.



Learning Activity

Read the attached article and show students the map of the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Torch Relay Route available at www.vancouver2010.com. Describe how the Olympic Flame will travel through all provinces and territories, passing through over 1,000 Canadian communities.

Brainstorm how this relay will bring Canadians together in the spirit of peace, unity and friendship. For younger students, these concepts may require explanation. This is a chance for Canadians to communicate to the world – and to each other – what the true spirit of Canada is.

LESSON PLAN

GRADE(S):

Adaptable for 1-7

SUBJECT:

**Language Arts /
Social Studies**

TIME REQUIRED:

40 minutes



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Divide the class into groups of three or four students. Have each group create a poster – a diagram of the torch relay and a short write-up (two to four sentences for primary, a paragraph for intermediate) about how this relay will unite Canadians in a display of peace, unity and friendship.

Post – Learning Activity

Have students answer this in a journal: “If you could be part of the torch relay celebration in your community, what would you want the rest of Canada and the world to know about where you live?” Remind the students they are trying to promote peace, unity and friendship.

Lesson Extensions

- The following outline could be used on a school-wide project. Each class could decide which aspect of peace, unity and friendship it would like to portray about itself and design a short presentation – a reading, skit or visual presentation. Then students could create their own torch relay by visiting different classes and celebrating the “peace, unity and friendship” of their school community.
- Intermediate students could research and present various stops on the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay route. As the relay progresses, pairs of students could present their “town” to the class, thus promoting unity in Canada.
- Intermediate students who might be studying ancient civilizations could do more in-depth research into the use of “fire” as a metaphor for Olympic values.

MORE INFO

Available Resources:

www.olympicschool.ca
– The Olympic Flame

www.vancouver2010.com/torchrelays






Language Arts (Secondary)

The Final Torchbearer - A symbol for the Nation

The last moment of the Olympic Torch Relay is one of the most dramatic and emotional moments of any Olympic Games. It's the moment the final torchbearer lights the Olympic Cauldron – and the Games begin.

The lighting of the Olympic Cauldron is part sport and part theatre. It's charged with symbolism and meaning. The identity of the final torchbearer is often a closely guarded secret, as the choice can set the tone for the entire Games.

At the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, Australia, runner Cathy Freeman lit the cauldron. In choosing an Aboriginal athlete, the Games organizers created a powerful symbol of unity for her people and her country. As Freeman rose into the sky on a giant waterfall to light the cauldron, the entire country was cheering for her. It was a symbol of society's efforts to rise above the racism that had existed towards Aboriginal people.

In Barcelona, archer Antonio Rebollo lit the cauldron. He fired a flaming arrow through the night sky. The arrow flew into the cauldron, igniting the flame. Rebollo was a Paralympian and this also signaled the bond among athletes in the Olympic and

Paralympic movements. Although the Olympic and Paralympic movements are distinct, this spoke to the pursuit of common values such as friendship, excellence and perseverance.

Korea was occupied by Japan during the Berlin 1936 Olympic Games, and Korean marathoner Sohn Kee-Chung was forced to compete for his nation's occupiers. When South Korea hosted the Seoul 1988 Olympic Games, he was selected as the final torchbearer. It was seen as the reclaiming of Kee-Chung as their Olympic hero.

In Canada's two Olympic Games, Montreal in 1976 and Calgary in 1988, young athletes were selected to light the flame, rather than older sports heroes or famous Canadians. This was a powerful symbol that the Olympic Games aren't just about today or the past, but are also about the future.

For Canada's third Olympic Games, in Vancouver in 2010, what will happen? Who will light the Olympic Cauldron? It's a secret, but you can bet it will be well worth the wait.

Credit: L-R 1,2 Getty Images; 3 Jamie Squire/Allsport



In Beijing in 2008, former Olympic gymnast Li Ning was lifted to the roof of the Olympic Stadium. Suspended by wire, he flew and ran high above the crowd holding the flame aloft before finally reaching out to light the Olympic Cauldron. China showed the world it had joined modern times.



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The Final Torchbearer— A Symbol for the Nation

Purpose

To engage students in the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay and 2010 Olympic Winter Games by examining the symbolism and metaphors associated with the final torchbearer.

Learning Outcomes

- Respond to texts’ personally, critically, and creatively
- Demonstrate an understanding and use of abstract literary terms (symbol and metaphor)
- Use critical/abstract thinking in written and oral communication
- Explain and support personal connections to texts
- Create thoughtful personal responses
- Evaluate and synthesize ideas
- Use voice, purpose, and audience effectively in writing

Pre - Learning Activity

Define metaphor and symbol, drawing on the students’ previous knowledge of these literary terms. In pairs, send students around the school to find and write down five symbols. Students should write the symbol as well as what the symbol represents (e.g., the Canadian flag represents freedom” or “the locked lockers represent distrust”). Upon their return to class, discuss the symbols the students found.

Learning Activity

View the video “Lights will guide you home” located on the VANOC website at http://www.vancouver2010.com/olympic-videos/lights-will-guide-you-home_116232g110288-JA.html Referencing the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay logo (entitled “A Path of Northern Lights”) located on the handout on page 10, discuss with the class the meaning of the metaphor. The emblem’s design was inspired by the torch’s journey across this magnificent land as the torchbearers light spirits and ignite dreams like a path of northern lights.

As a class, brainstorm the characteristics and qualities of Canada. Draw from the different cultures represented in the class, and/or account for the different cultures within Canada. Next, come up with values and ideas that are important to Canadians.

LESSON PLAN

GRADE(S):

8-10

SUBJECT:

**Olympic Torch Relay:
the Final Runner**

TIME REQUIRED:

approx. 75 minutes



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As a class, choose the top five characteristics/qualities of Canada and the top five ideas/values that are important to Canadians. Students write these on the handout.

Ask the students to read the article entitled “The Final Torchbearer—A Symbol for the Nation.”

In groups of four or five, ask students to select which Canadian they feel should light the cauldron in 2010 and in what way the cauldron should be lit. Remind them to connect the qualities/characteristics of Canada and the idea of metaphor or symbol as they make these decisions. How the Cauldron is lit must also show significance.

Students should write their choice on the handout, describing who, why and how the cauldron would be lit with the flame. Have groups defend their choices to the entire class.

Post – Learning Activity

Writing exercise:

Students write a letter recommending their choice of final torchbearer, as well as a suggesting how this Canadian could light the Olympic Cauldron. The letter should clearly explain how these choices truly reflect Canada and/or values important to Canadians. The letter should be formal, using appropriate voice and tone.

OR

Students write a personal reflection defining who they are as Canadians and how they are an important part of the identity of Canada.

Lesson Extensions

- Pre-Learning activity option: Students brainstorm values and characteristics of their school. Who would be a good choice to be a figurative representation of the school?
- Debate: Groups or individuals could defend their choice of Canadian in a formal debate.
- Prediction Pool: Make a formal format in which students predict who will actually light the Olympic Cauldron. Store that information safely, and bring it out after opening ceremony in 2010.

LEARN MORE

‘Illanaaq’ (Inuktitut for “friend”) is the Inukshuk inspired logo representing the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games. An Inukshuk is a traditional stone marker used by the Inuit to guide their way across the sometimes featureless Arctic.



Photo courtesy of VANOC.



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A Path of Northern Lights

The emblem's design was inspired by the torch's journey across this magnificent land as the torchbearers light spirits and ignite dreams like a path of northern lights.



TORCH RELAY
RELAIS ^{DE} LA FLAMME

vancouver 2010



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