Warm yourself up during the frigid temperatures by looking forward to summer! We hope you'll join us on July 13-14, 2010, for TPS-TN's first Summer Institute. The theme will be the impact of the Civil War on the Tennessee homefront. Stay tuned for more information!

February is African American History Month, and TPS-TN’s contribution to this month’s events is a Webcast through MTSU’s Instructional Technology Support Center. (Click here for info on how to watch it.) This Webcast looks at the Civil Rights movement in Tennessee through primary sources and other online materials at the Library of Congress Web site. Also be sure to check out the Library’s new exhibition on the NAACP, launching Feb. 3, 2010.

“AWSOME” SOURCE OF THE MONTH:

Philip Weinstein, 8 years old, and an older boy who uses him as a decoy… [1910]
What are some of the clues that indicate this photograph was taken in 1910? Why is Philip selling newspapers instead of attending school?

THEME: OLYMPICS!

Starting February 12, 2010, the Winter Olympics will be held in Vancouver, the capital of the Canadian province of British Columbia. The official Web site for the games can be found here, with a special page of teacher materials available here.

The Olympic Games are a great way to tie many subjects—history, math, geography, health, science—into current events. Have your students treat the upcoming Winter Games as a unique set of new primary sources, and do research projects, science experiments, or fun activities based on them.

The Library of Congress Web site contains photographs, posters, and other primary sources from Olympic Games since the first modern Games in 1896. Search “Olympics” in American Memory, Prints & Photographs, and Today in History.
LESSON IDEA—Olympics: Peace or Politics?

The Olympics are meant to show peace and cooperation between nations. However, the spirit of the Games are not always reflected in contemporary international relations. During times of great upheaval, the Games were completely cancelled, as during World War I (1916) and II (1940 and 1944).

Politics also enters the Olympic arena when the Games are used as a platform for political commentary or protest. Think to the recent calls for China to remedy its human rights record in before the Beijing Games (2008). Both the 1980 and 1984 Olympics were boycotted by several countries due to Cold War tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union. In a controversial gesture at the 1968 Mexico City Games, winners Tommie Smith and John Carlos raised a fist for black power (see p. 3 for link).

Adolph Hitler used the 1936 Berlin Games to show the strength of the National Socialist Party—and the prowess of Aryan athletes—to the world. Martha Graham refused to dance at these Games out of protest against Germany’s racial policy. And Jesse Owens (left) disappointed Hitler when he collected four gold medals in track and field. From the winner’s podium, he saluted the flag and not the Führer.

Divide students into groups of 2-4, and instruct each group to pick one Olympic Games to research. Students should look for any instances of protests, boycotts, or public concern, and the historical context which created such opposition. Supplement research with available images from loc.gov.

Arrange student groups in a timeline for class presentations. Consider the following: Should the Olympics be used as a political platform? How would you keep politics out of the events? To what extent do the Olympics represent actual relations between nations?

This activity can be adapted to meet standards for High School Contemporary Issues (1.1, 1.4, 4.2, 5.1), Modern History (1.1, 5.3, 6.1), Sociology (1.1, 1.2, 4.2, 6.7), U.S. History (8.1, 8.3), and World History (1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 6.3).

LESSON IDEA—Olympics and the Environment

The Olympics came to Tennessee during the 1996 Games (in Atlanta) when the Ocoee River was selected as the course for the whitewater slalom competition. The Tennessee Valley Authority installed three dams on the Ocoee in 1939-1940, which has not only created hydroelectric power for the area, but has also created spectacular stretches of whitewater, perfect for recreation.

Ocoee Dam No. 3 supplies water and power to the Copper Basin of Tennessee, an area suffering environmental blight. The burgeoning whitewater tourism on the Ocoee and the growing environmental movement have led to reforestation efforts, as well as other efforts to protect the landscapes—and waterscapes!—of the Ocoee River region.

Have students create promotional posters or brochures to encourage tourism and/or conservation on the Ocoee or other Tennessee rivers (search “TVA [and] recreation/sports/swimming/popular”). Highlight the role of water sports and recreation. Present the posters/brochures to the class, and discuss the following questions:

- What role did the 1996 Summer Olympics play in the tourism industry of eastern Tennessee?
- Why would the Tennessee Valley Authority promote recreation on its river systems?
- What are ways in which water recreation can help conserve an ecosystem? What are ways in which it can degrade or destroy an ecosystem?

Read more about the Ocoee at these sites: the Tennessee Valley Authority Web site, the Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture, the USDA Forest Service, and the Ocoee River Area Homepage. These ideas can be adapted to meet standards for High School Ecology (3255.6) and Environmental Science (3260.4).
In 2009, Chicago lost its bid to host the 2016 Summer Games. If it had won, it would have become the seventh city in the United States to host the Olympics. To date, three U.S. cities have hosted the Summer Games: St. Louis (1904), Los Angeles (1932 & 1984), and Atlanta (1996); while three other U.S. cities have hosted the Winter Games: Lake Placid, NY (1932 & 1980), Squaw Valley, CA (1960), and Salt Lake City (2002).

Look at the list of world cities that have hosted all the modern Olympic Games, summer and winter, since 1896. Each student can pick one city to research on www.loc.gov and in your school library.

- Do you recognize the names of the Winter Games cities? Why have cities that are less well-known hosted the Winter Games, while more well-known cities have hosted the Summer Games?
- What does it take for a city to be considered to host Winter Games? What are the geographical features that make them good venues for winter sports? (See images of Sarajevo, Lake Placid, and St. Moritz for inspiration.)
- What other considerations, besides a city’s qualifications, does the Olympic Committee look at in order to make its decisions?

On a world map, have students plot points for their Olympic cities. Looking at the distribution of these cities around the globe, consider the following:

- What areas of the globe does the IOC favor? What areas does it tend to ignore? Why is that?
- What cities would you like to see the Olympics go to for 2018? 2020? 2024?

This idea can be adapted to meet standards for 7th grade Geography (7.3) and High School World Geography (1.2, 3.7).

**Featured Feature—Thumbnail Images That Do Not Expand**

While not exactly a “feature” like the presentations, activities, and Web pages in previous newsletter issues, this topic could use more explanation. Many images of the Olympics on www.loc.gov are protected by copyright or are under uncertain copyright. This does not mean that you cannot show them to students in your classes. However, it does mean that some of the images you find, especially those in Prints & Photographs, can only be viewed in thumbnail size, and cannot be expanded into a larger jpeg. If you’d like to use a larger size, click on “How to obtain copies of this item.” Teacher activities usually fall under “fair use.”

Despite all this, there are many great images of Olympic games, athletes, locations, and posters in the Prints & Photographs Division. To see them, click here and enter “Olympics” into the search box. Once your list of results comes up, click on “preview images” to see the thumbnails. Here are some Olympics images that are vivid even in thumbnail-only form:

- Tommie Smith and John Carlos at the 1968 Mexico City Games [photograph]
- Billy Mills crossing finish line of 10,000 meter race [photograph]
- ‘We want the Olympics to be a pure sporting event -- not an opportunity for the Western news media to lionize dissidents and to play politics’ [political cartoon]
- The Olympics where men & women of all nations engage in peaceful competition--Olympics 1976 / Romare Bearden [poster]
Still Shot of Action

Athlete, weight lifting, standing on athletic field holding barbell, with one hand, over his head, 1904 Olympic Games [1904]

This picture was taken by a photographer for the Chicago Daily News. How would the American public’s experience of the Olympics been different if people had to read about the Games in a newspaper as opposed to watching them on TV? How does this photograph convey a sense of action? Where are the spectators?

Olympic Medal = Scrap Metal

Gloria Callen, Olympic swimming champion [1942]

The title of this photograph is misleading, as Gloria Callen never swam in the Olympics, even though she qualified for the U.S. team of 1940. The reason she never went to the Olympics is apparent in the message of the background poster. Do you think she scrapped her championship trophies for the war effort? In what other ways would Olympic Games have gotten in the way of the war effort?

“Greatest Athlete in the World”

Jim Thorpe, Olympic swimming champion

Jim Thorpe, who was part Native American, was one of the most famous athletes of the 20th century, playing football, basketball, and baseball, and winning gold medals at the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm. How does this 4-page lecture program portray his life and achievements? Who do you think would have attended his lectures? Do present-day athletes give public programs such as this?

Olympic Panorama

General view of Los Angeles Olympic Stadium on the opening day of the Games of the Xth Olympiad, while contenders from all nations take the Olympic Athlete’s Oath [1932]—with enlarged detail below panorama

Why would Los Angeles be selected twice to host the Olympics? What impressions do you get from this panoramic photo? What can you do with Olympic arenas after the Games are over? Read more about these Games at Today in History: July 30.