

Mime, role play, cooperation

Torch relay – find the correct order

Time: 30 minutes

Target audience: Children aged 9 to 12

Equipment:

- Photos of the torch relay (vehicles and runners) and the flame lighting ceremony in Olympia (appendix 1)
- Character sheets to be distributed to the participants (appendix 2)

Staff: 1

Brief description of the activity

“The flame is conveyed to the host city by thousands of relay runners: athletes and celebrities but also, and above all, many ordinary people. It announces the arrival of the Games and sends a message of peace, unity and friendship between people.”

Each participant must try to find their correct position in the Olympic torch relay by observing, understanding and using gestures and other non-verbal language to communicate with the other players. Each participant is given a sheet with the identity of a relay runner. The aim is to guess the identities of the other runners and find their correct place in the line, from the lighting of the flame in Olympia to the torch's arrival in the Olympic stadium, all without saying a word.

This workshop teaches participants about the symbolism of the relay and helps them to learn about the relay runners and the different modes of transport used.

Using mime and different facial expressions helps them to get inside the skin of a character and play make believe. It offers the children an opportunity for individual expression, and gives them the experience of being both actor and spectator.



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Instructions

Before the workshop

- Familiarise yourself with the torch relay and its symbolism.

See reference documents on the Olympic torches and the torch relay:

<http://www.olympic.org/content/the-olympic-museum/visit/schools/teaching-resources/support-de-cours/the-olympic-flame-and-the-torch-relay/>

<http://olympicjourney.olympic.org/?l=en>

<http://olympicjourney.olympic.org/?l=en#/en/the-torches:-design-and-symbolism/273>

During the workshop

- Ask the children what they know about the torch relay, what it symbolises, how the flame is transported and what they know about the people who carry the torches. Show photos of relay runners, and show or mention examples of different modes of transport used for the flame (photos attached). Talk about the torch relay for the forthcoming Rio Games (see appendix 3).
- Introduce the game, explain the purpose and the rules. Emphasise that the game must take place in complete silence. Introduce the gestures and hand signals that will be used, in addition to facial expressions, to communicate with the other players (pick a signal to mean “yes”, “no”, “mime your character”, “I’ll mime my character for you”, “you are in front of me”, “you are behind me” and “you’re not the one I’m looking for”).
- Give a character sheet to each participant. Each character sheet has the identity of the person, and the identity of the people ahead of and behind them in the relay. The sheets can be taken from the catalogue of sheets provided (appendix 1) and adapted according to the size of the group and the age of the participants.
- Each player takes a moment to study their sheet. The aim of the game is to end up in an ordered line, from the person who lit the flame in Olympia to the person who lit the cauldron in the Olympic stadium. In order to find their correct position in the line, each player must find the people who are immediately ahead of and behind them.
- In order to do this, the players must move around and interact with each other, without speaking.
- The players communicate using hand signals, facial expressions and body language. When two players interact, both of them act out their character and try to guess the identity of the other player.
- When a player has found the people immediately in front of and behind them, they place themselves in the line between those two players.
- As the game progresses, the players gradually build up the relay sequence, without speaking.
- When the game is finished, each player reveals their identity and shows their character sheet.

Variation for large groups

- Split into two (or more) groups.
- The group that finds the sequence in the shortest time wins.

Make it clear that the competitive aspect is not part of the torch relay, and has only been added for the purposes of this game.

ANNEX I

Images of the torch relay

Lighting in Olympia



Relay runners



Entering the stadium



Lighting the cauldron



ANNEX II

Character sheets for printing

These eight character sheets are to be printed, cut out and distributed.

High Priestess of Olympia (Greece)

I am:

An actress who plays the role of the High Priestess of Olympia. I am a young, pretty woman wearing a white pleated dress. I receive the flame in a ceramic urn. The first relay runner lights the Olympic torch from this urn.

I have to pass the flame to:

First relay runner

First relay runner

I am:

A 40-year-old man. I am tall and strong. I do a lot of sport.

I received the flame from:

High Priestess of Olympia

I have to pass the flame to:

Young man in a wheelchair

Young man in a wheelchair

I am:

A 23-year-old paraplegic man. I have always used a wheelchair, so I am very comfortable with it and can move around quickly.

I received the flame from:

First relay runner

I have to pass the flame to:

Swimmer

Swimmer

I am:

A former top swimmer. I'm now 55 years old, and I'm going to swim across a river with the torch.

I received the flame from:

Young man in a wheelchair

I have to pass the flame to:

Singer

Singer

I am:

A very popular singer in my country. Everyone has heard my songs.

I received the flame from:

Swimmer

I have to pass the flame to:

An old farmer

Old farmer

I am:

An 88-year-old farmer. I have lived all my life in the village the torch is passing through. I was asked to be a relay runner. It's a great honour for me.

I received the flame from:

Singer

I have to pass the flame to:

Camel driver

Camel driver

I am:

A camel driver. I am going to carry the flame on my camel. It will be great! We're getting close to the stadium.

I received the flame from:

An old farmer

I have to pass the flame to:

The final relay runner

Final relay runner

I am:

A former athlete. I won many medals for my country and I'm very proud to have been chosen to light the cauldron in the Olympic stadium.

I received the flame from:

Camel driver

You can also add your own characters (use the blank sheets below), taking care to adjust the sequence as necessary (given to / received from).

Character:

I am:

I received the flame from:

I have to pass the flame to:

Character:

I am:

I received the flame from:

I have to pass the flame to:

Character:

I am:

I received the flame from:

I have to pass the flame to:

Character:

I am:

I received the flame from:

I have to pass the flame to:

Character:

I am:

I received the flame from:

I have to pass the flame to:

Character:

I am:

I received the flame from:

I have to pass the flame to:

Character:

I am:

I received the flame from:

I have to pass the flame to:

Character:

I am:

I received the flame from:

I have to pass the flame to:

ANNEX III

About the Rio 2016 torch relay

Each relay is different, and provides an opportunity to learn about the history and culture of another part of the world. The design of the Olympic torch gives the host country the opportunity to express its identity. For Rio 2016, the innovative design, inspired by the warmth of the Brazilian people, features mobile segments that expand vertically to reveal the colours of Brazil when the flame is passed from one runner to the next. The triangular profile of the torch is a reference to the three Olympic values of excellence, friendship and respect, while the floating effect of the different sections symbolises the athletes' performance. The horizontal breaks in the torch reveal the sky, mountains, sea and land, coming down to the Copacabana promenade.

After the traditional Olympic flame lighting ceremony in Olympia in Greece, the Rio 2016 Olympic torch relay will take 90 to 100 days to cross Brazil. Around 12,000 torch bearers will pass the flame from hand to hand on a circuit of some 20,000 kilometres of Brazilian roads. The flame will also fly 16,000km to the north and west of the country, between the cities of Teresina and Campo Grande. The Rio 2016 Olympic torch convoy will pass through 500 cities and towns, 300 of which will feature special events, and a further 200 of which will see the Olympic flame pass through.

Further information:

<http://www.rio2016.com/tochaolimpica/en>