



Lessons 5 – Opening Ceremony - designing

Level 3 Achievement objective, B2 – *Students will develop movement skills and demonstrate confidence in challenging situations*

Learning objective

Students will use movement skills to illustrate their understanding of aspects of an opening ceremony, integrating elements of Chinese culture and Olympism.

Activity 1

Begin by asking the following key questions.

Key questions

- What do we now know about China?
- What are the great things China would choose to highlight through their opening ceremony? Are there things they may not choose to highlight?
- What are the things that people choose to highlight when given the opportunity?
- How could aspects of the Olympics be used in an opening ceremony?

Divide the class into five groups. Each group is allocated a Fuwa (Olympic mascot) Students spend the next two sessions designing an opening ceremony using the attached information cards.

Teacher notes:

Each group will be allocated one of the five information cards. The information cards have been based around the five Fuwa (Olympic mascots) and various aspects of the Olympic Games which must feature in their performance. Blessings and elements of nature are represented in the characteristics of the Fuwa. Each Fuwa also represents an animal/flame and a colour of the Olympic rings.

Introduce the task:

Groups design elements of an opening ceremony based on the information card that they have been given. Click here for [FUWA information card templates](#).

Four steps for the design of their opening ceremony:

1. March into stadium
2. Entering of the Olympic torch and lighting of the Olympic flame
3. Play Chinese cultural game
4. Create a small dance demonstrating their Fuwa's characteristics (characteristics of these Fuwa represent the Olympic Ideals)
5. Write a poem about their Fuwa that can be shared at the end of their presentation (opening ceremony) – this could be presented on an Olympic scroll.

It is important that students consider the message they want people to understand about China through their presentation.

Presentation guidelines that must be explicitly addressed:

- dress in designated Fuwa colour (an Olympic ring colour)
- students must be MOVING at all times
- everybody has a role
- elements are made clear throughout the presentation
- defined beginning and end – all members linked in final formation (as Olympic rings depict)
- ensure aspects of Olympic Games opening ceremony are evident, for example, lighting of the Olympic flame (as in [Lesson 3](#)).

Question to ask class: What makes a good performance?

Students have 15 minutes planning phase (may need to outline ideas on paper).

Allocate appropriate time for groups to practise.