

## OLYMPIC FLAG MIX-UP

---

**This lesson will introduce students to the history of the Olympic Opening Ceremonies and the details that go into them.**

### CONTEXT

The Olympic Opening Ceremonies are steeped in historic tradition and as they have evolved over the years, one thing never changes: the order in which the countries march in the Parade of Nations. After students have been introduced to the Olympic Opening Ceremonies using the attached materials, students will work in groups to correctly arrange the flags in the orders they would have been presented at the 1932 and 1980 Olympic Winter Games in Lake Placid.

### AIMS & OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

1. Gather, interpret, and use evidence.
2. Use chronological reasoning and causation.
3. Utilizing geographic reasoning.

### MATERIALS

#### Primary Sources:

Photographs from the LPOM collection.

#### Secondary Sources:

World Map

## PROCEDURE

---

- Introduce students to the Opening Ceremonies by using the provided information sheets. Explain that countries march into the Opening Ceremony in alphabetical order with the exceptions being Greece entering first since they are the founders of the Ancient Games and the host country entering last.
- Split students into groups with pre-shuffled flags from either the 1932 or 1980 Games.
- Have students first determine where each flag is from by researching online.
- Once students have determined where each flag is from, have students mark on the map where each country is. Please note that the map provided is from c. 1980.
- Ask students to then arrange the flags in the order that the countries would have marched in during the Parade of Nations by using information from what they learned and the primary sources provided.

## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

---

As an extension activity, have students conduct research on an Olympic host country that participated in either the 1932 or 1980 Olympic Winter Games and create either a group presentation or a short research paper.

# 1932 OPENING CEREMONY

## KEY FACTS

**When:** February 4th, 1932

**Where:** Olympic Stadium

**Who:** 17 Nations

**Athletes:** 252

**Events:** 14

**Length:** ~45 mins.

## 1932 NATIONS

1. Austria
2. Belgium
3. Canada
4. Czechoslovakia
5. Finland
6. France
7. Germany
8. Great Britain
9. Hungary
10. Italy
11. Japan
12. Norway
13. Poland
14. Romania
15. Sweden
16. Switzerland
17. U.S.A.

As the Great Depression grips the world, 252 athletes from 17 nations overcome economic hardships and arrive in Lake Placid. The Opening Ceremony is held in the Olympic Stadium, also known as the Speed Skating Oval. Many dignitaries were in attendance: members from the International Olympic Committee (IOC), New York State Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt, American Olympic Association President Avery Brundage, and Lake Placid Olympic Committee President Godfrey Dewey.

The Opening Ceremony for the 1932 Olympic Winter Games proves to be a spectacular event despite being held at the height of the Great Depression. The flags of the 17 participating nations flew around the stadium, all the buildings in town itself was decorated with colorful bunting, and there was a grand bandstand for the musicians.

As the American national anthem ends, the Parade of Nations begins. The teams march in alphabetical order with a designated flag bearer from each country proudly waving their nation's flag. For Team USA, bobsledder Billy Fiske receives the honor of being a flag bearer. In front of each flag bearer is a Boy Scout with a placard to clearly indicate the name of the national delegation.

As the Parade of Nations comes to a close, Governor Roosevelt officially opens the Games by stating "and so we are glad to welcome this nation, our sister nations, as guests of the American people and of the State of New York, and I proclaim open the III Olympic Winter Games, celebrating the Xth Olympiad of the modern era."

Jack Shea, U.S.A. speed skater and a native of Lake Placid, is selected to take the Olympic oath on top of the Victory Podium. The Opening Ceremony in its entirety took a little over half an hour and after a short break, the first event of the III Olympic Winter Games began with the first heat of the 500-meter speed skating race.

# 1980 OPENING CEREMONY

## KEY FACTS

**When:** February 13th, 1980

**Where:** Horseshow Grounds

**Who:** 37 Nations

**Athletes:** 1,068

**Events:** 38

**Length:** ~1 hour

On February 13th, 1980, the 1980 Olympic Winter Games officially opens at the Horseshow Grounds with several dignitaries in attendance including the U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale, New York State Governor Hugh L. Carey, IOC President Lord Killanin, and Lake Placid Olympic Committee President Bernard Fell.

The hour-long Opening Ceremony features a trumpet and drum corps, a 600-member Olympic Orchestra and Concert, skaters, sky divers, hot air balloons, the cauldron lighting, and the Parade of Nations.

The teams march in alphabetical order with a designated flag bearer from each country proudly waving their nation's flag. For Team USA, figure skater Scott Hamilton is appointed the honor of carrying the nation's flag in the parade.

After the Parade of Nations ends, torchbearer Dr. Charles Kerr lights the Olympic cauldron and it is raised to the top so the flame can be seen from all of the Olympic Venues. U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale proclaims the Games open and U.S. speed skater Eric Heiden takes the Olympic Oath.

## 1980 NATIONS

1. Greece
2. Andorra
3. Argentina
4. Australia
5. Austria
6. Belgium
7. Bolivia
8. Bulgaria
9. Canada
10. China
11. Costa Rica
12. Cyprus
13. Czechoslovakia
14. Federal Republic of Germany
15. Finland
16. France
17. Democratic Republic of Germany
18. Great Britain
19. Hungary
20. Iceland
21. Italy
22. Japan
23. Korea
24. Lebanon
25. Liechtenstein
26. Mongolia
27. Netherlands
28. New Zealand
29. Norway
30. Poland
31. Romania
32. Spain
33. Sweden
34. Switzerland
35. U.S.S.R.
36. Yugoslavia
37. U.S.A.

# PARADE OF NATIONS

## BRIEF HISTORY AND FACTS

# 1908

LONDON SUMMER GAMES

The first Parade of Nations takes places.

## 1924

### 1924 Olympic Winter Games: Chamonix, France

For the Parade of Nations at the first Olympic Winter Games in 1924, athletes marched with their equipment: skis, skates, luges, and bobsleighs.

## 1928

### 1928 Olympic Summer Games: Amsterdam, Netherlands

The tradition of the Greek delegation marching first is introduced - owing to the status of the founding country of the ancient Olympic Games.

## 1932

### 1932 Olympic Winter Games: Lake Placid, New York, U.S.A.

The first ever female flag-bearer was Mollie Phillips, a British figure skater. The 1932 Games were also the first time that winter athletes finally marched without their equipment.

Being selected a flag bearer is a very big honor. Olympic flag bearers are selected through a vote of a nation's team captains. However, team captains are not allowed to vote for their own sport.



### A

Alphabetical order for the nations has always been used, but it depends on the language and spelling of the host nation. For example, at Mexico City in 1968, "United States" in Spanish is "Estados Unidos," so Team USA entered the stadium near the beginning of the parade.

-

### Z

*Exceptions: Greece always enters first and the host nation traditionally enters last.*

## 1932

17 Nations  
252 athletes  
USA Flag Bearer:  
Billy Fiske  
Bobsled

## 1980

37 Nations  
1,068 athletes  
USA Flag Bearer:  
Scott Hamilton  
Figure Skating

### 1908 SUMMER GAMES OFFICIAL REPORT EXCERPT:

"On the Parade, it is expected that every athlete taking part will be in the athletic costume of his country, or of the sport in which he intends to compete."



Ralph Lauren has been the current official outfitter for Team USA since 2008. In the past, other designers have included Levi's, Roots, and Champion.



LAKE PLACID  
OLYMPIC MUSEUM

# 1980 FLAG MIX-UP ANSWER GUIDE



1. Greece



2. Andorra



3. Argentina



4. Australia



5. Austria



6. Belgium



7. Bolivia



8. Bulgaria



9. Canada



10. China



11. Costa Rica



12. Cyprus



13. Czechoslovakia



14. Fed. Rep. of  
Germany



15. Finland



16. France



17. Dem. Rep. of  
Germany



18. Great Britain



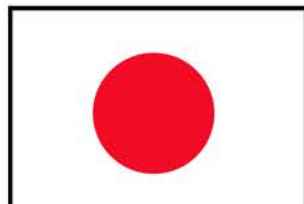
19. Hungary



20. Iceland



21. Italy



22. Japan



23. Korea



24. Lebanon

# 1980 FLAG MIX-UP ANSWER GUIDE



25. Liechtenstein



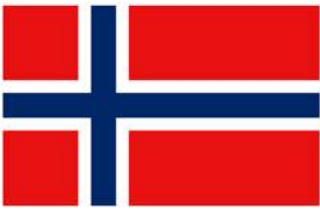
26. Mongolia



27. Netherlands



28. New Zealand



29. Norway



30. Poland



31. Romania



32. Spain



33. Sweden



34. Switzerland



35. U.S.S.R



36. Yugoslavia



37. U.S.A.

---

## TID BITS

---

- Federal Republic of Germany = West Germany
  - Democratic Republic of Germany = East Germany
  - Some flags are different designs than today because the flags were different back then.
  - **Former Yugoslavia Explanation:**  
<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1989-1992/breakup-yugoslavia>
  - **Czechoslovakia Break Explanation:**  
<https://www.britannica.com/place/Czechoslovakia>
  - **East and West Germany Split Explanation:**  
<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/what-was-the-berlin-wall-and-how-did-it-fall#:~:text=In%201949%2C%20Germany%20formally%20split,allied%20to%20the%20Soviet%20Union.>
-

# 1932 FLAG MIX-UP ANSWER GUIDE



1. Austria



2. Belgium



3. Canada



4. Czechoslovakia



5. Finland



6. France



7. Germany



8. Great Britain



9. Hungary



10. Italy



11. Japan



12. Norway



13. Poland



14. Romania



15. Sweden



16. Switzerland



17. U.S.A.

## TID BITS

- In 1932, the USA only had 48 states so the flag only has 48 stars as opposed to 50.
- Some flags are different designs than today because the flags were different back then.
- **Czechoslovakia Break Explanation:**  
<https://www.britannica.com/place/Czechoslovakia>