

Name: _____

Date: _____

Let's Get Thinking!

1. Have you heard of the "Miracle on Ice?" If yes, what is it? If no, what do you think it could be?

2. Do you think politics have a place in sports, in particular in the Olympic Games?

Investigate & Discuss #1

1. What is one historical situation being depicted in this image?

2. How does this image reflect a continuity of the American perspective on the Soviet Union in the decades after World War II?

Investigate & Discuss #2

1. What is the claim that this author is making?

Investigate & Discuss #3

1. What is the extent to which politics played a role in the American celebration seen and heard in these documents?

2. To what extent did sports play a role?

Investigate & Discuss #4

1. Why might someone have left this medal behind?

2. How does this artifact change the way you think about this event?

Investigate & Discuss #5

1. How did this loss impact the Soviet identity?

2. Why did it have such an impact?

Investigate & Discuss #6

1. What political purpose might this image and its caption serve?

Reflect & Discuss

What questions can you ask about these documents to determine what implicit or explicit messages the people who created them were trying to share? Explain how your questions would help you evaluate these sources.

Ice & Ideals Virtual Field Trip: Investigate & Discuss #1



Ice & Ideals Virtual Field Trip: Investigate & Discuss #2 & 3

Olympians Restore American Pride

By WILL GRIMSLEY
AP Special Correspondent

LAKE PLACID, N.Y. (AP) — “Wow!” It started with this tarzanic yell from the throat of young Eric Heiden after he had won his fourth gold medal in speed skating.

It escalated to bedlam with the U.S. ice hockey team’s astonishing victory over the Russians. Then it became a roll of thunder. “USA, USA, USA!”

It reverberated from the white sands

of Hawaii’s beaches to the frozen tip of Long Island’s Montauk Point. The whole country joined the mass celebration. Pride had come back to America.

Cheering, flag-waving crowds clogged the streets of the little upstate New York village that hosted the XIII Winter Olympic Games. It was New Year’s Eve and the Mardi Gras in moon boots and parkas, but the elation had no boundaries. It saturated the nation.

The USA hasn’t had much to cheer

about lately. Fifty of its citizens are still held hostage in Iran. The Russians are threatening in the Persian Gulf. Detente is cracking up. Energy is sapping everybody’s pocketbook and inflation is heading for the moon.

Then comes this 21-year-old Madison, Wis., kid in a gold suit setting Winter Olympic records no one dared dream possible, and a band of collegians, largely from Minnesota and Massachusetts, carves out an ice hockey miracle on sheer grit and guts.

Old Uncle Sam, who has been taking it on the chin, was in need of a stimulant. The kids gave it to him on the ice and snow of Lake Placid — a fresh shot of pride and patriotism.

After a sputtering start, marked by bad luck and frustration at every venue except Heiden’s magic oval, young Americans added a gilded hue to the Games’ closing hours.

Phil Mahre of White Pass, Wash., shrugging off the nightmare of a bone-snapping spill the year before, won a silver medal in the men’s Alpine skiing slalom. Heiden won his fifth gold — an unprecedented feat — with a world record in the 10,000 meters.

Petite, pressured Linda Fratianne figure skated her heart out and missed the gold medal by a fraction of a point. Then those irrepressible stick wielders, averaging 22 years in age, followed up their unbelievable victory over the Russians with a third-period rally that beat the Finns 4-2 and clinched the gold.

So America goes bananas. Why not? Olympic purists tell us there is no room for nationalism in the Games. They are built on a concept of individual competition in which winning is unimportant. The main theme, they say, is to compete. Forget the anthems, flags and medal standings.

That’s the ideal. But that’s not the way it is. The Olympic Games are contests among human beings, with human desires, pride, jealousies and loyalties. By their very nature they are a square-off of ideologies. Nationalistic fever runs high.

Repeating a remark by the great Jesse Owens, “If there were no national pride, flags and anthems and desire to win, you might as well hold the Games in somebody’s backyard.”

Investigate & Discuss #3

“It reverberated from the white sands of Hawaii’s beaches to the frozen tip of Long Island’s Montauk Point. The whole country joined the mass celebration. Pride had come back to America. Cheering, flag-waving crowds clogged the streets of the little upstate New York village that hosted the XIII Winter Olympic Games. It was New Year’s Eve and the Mardi Gras in moon boots and parkas, but the elation had no boundaries. It saturated the nation.”

Investigate & Discuss #2

“Olympic purists tell us there is no room for nationalism in the Games. They are built on the concept of individual competition in which winning is unimportant. The main theme, they say, is to compete. Forget the anthems, flags, and medal standings. That’s the ideal. But that’s not the way it is. The Olympic Games are contests among human beings, with human desires, pride, jealousies, and loyalties. By their very nature, they are a square off of ideologies. Nationalistic fever runs high. Repeating a remark by the great Jesse Owens, “if there were no national pride, flags and anthems and desire to win, you might as well hold the Games in somebody’s backyard.”

Ice & Ideals Virtual Field Trip: Investigate & Discuss #3



Ice & Ideals Virtual Field Trip: Investigate & Discuss #4-5



Sergei Makarov, Forward: It was difficult when we returned. Usually, they met us with flowers and applause. But this time, it was a vacuum. Our families were the only ones to greet us.

Vladislav Tretiak, Goaltender: No one thanked us for our silver medal.

Vladimir Petrov, Forward: However, to me, that silver medal's still worth a lot. I sacrificed blood for it.

Evgeniy Kuznetsov, Journalist: At that time in the Soviet Union, there was an unspoken law: if the hockey team loses at the Olympic Games, then all of the Olympics is a loss to us.

Sergei Makarov, Forward: It was isolation from the world. From reality. That's why I think that the idea of hockey soured. There was no "fun." The spirit had gone.

Ice & Ideals Virtual Field Trip: Investigate & Discuss #6



“The faces of the Soviet coaches and ministers of sport have that ‘Back-to-Siberia’ look as the hockey defeat becomes official.”