

Name of activity: The First Marathon

Short description: Students listen to/watch a story about the first marathon and do activities related to it.

Link to curriculum: Grade 9; Unit 6.34

Difficulty level: medium

Time: 35 minutes

Learning outcomes: by the end of this activity:

Students will have practiced listening for specific information.

(Competency 3; Listening)

Option 1

Lesson plan with:

- ✓ Worksheet
- ✓ Tapescript

Option 2

Lesson plan with:

- ✓ Worksheets to project (data projector)
- ✓ Link to audio or video recording

Option 3

Lesson plan with:

- ✓ Activities for a Computer Room

Link to material:

<http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/short-stories/the-first-marathon>

Option 1: Worksheet

Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make copies of worksheets 1 and 2 (1 per pair) • See tapescript of the story below and, if you have internet access, listen to the recording, or even download it to play in class.
Stage / Time	Procedure
Introduction 7 mins	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Put students into pairs and tell them that they are going to listen to a story about the first marathon. 2. Give out worksheet 1 and get pairs to match the correct words to the pictures (activity 1). Go around the class, monitor and help. 3. Have a quick feedback with the whole class
Listening 1 5 mins	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell the students that they are going to listen to the story now. 2. They have to listen for the answer to a question. <i>Q :When was the first marathon race of the modern Olympics run? 1896</i> 3. Read/play the story once. (See tapescript below) 4. Check answer with whole class
Listening 2 13 mins	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Give out worksheet 2. The story is not in order. 2. Get students to work with their partner and try to remember the order of the story. 3. Students put the relevant number in the box before each sentence. 4. Read/play the story again for students to check the answers.
Extension	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For homework, get students to invent a new sport for the Olympics and write a set of rules for it.

Worksheet 1

1. What's the word?

Write the word under the pictures.



Persian soldier	Greek soldier	messenger	plain of Marathon
Spartan	arrow	postman	ships
			
	Persian soldier		
			

Worksheet 2

2. What's the order?

Listen to the story and put the sentences in order.



	A Greek messenger, Pheidippides, ran to ask the Spartans for help, but they said no.
	Now Pheidippides ran 40km to Athens to warn them that the Persians were coming.
1	In 490 B.C. the Persians wanted to take Athens from Greece.
	Because of Pheidippides' 40km run to save Athens, the 'marathon' race was created.
	There were 10,000 Greeks on the hill and 48,000 Persians on the plain of Marathon.
	The Greeks and Persians fought. The Greeks won.
	The Persians tried to escape by ship and go to Athens.
	Pheidippides got to Athens with the message. Athens was safe, but then he died.

Tapescript

The first marathon

In 490 B.C. there was a big war between the Persians and the Greeks.

Persia was a huge empire, much bigger than Greece. It wanted to capture Athens.

The Greek soldiers waited on top of the hill while the Persian army waited on the plain of Marathon below. There were 48 000 Persian soldiers and only 10 000 Greek soldiers.

The Greeks sent a messenger, Pheidippides, to Sparta to get help. He ran for two days over the mountains to ask the Spartans.

But the Spartans would not fight until there was a full moon. Pheidippides returned to Marathon alone.

The Greeks could not wait and attacked the Persian army. The Greeks ran towards the enemy. Persian arrows flew through the air.

The Greeks won. 6 400 Persians were killed but only 192 Greeks died.

The Persians ran to their ships and tried to escape. They tried to go to Athens to capture the Greek women, children and old people waiting there.

Pheidippides now had another job. He ran 40 kilometres to Athens to tell the Greeks that they had won and to tell them that the Persians were coming.

He arrived at the city gates very tired. "Rejoice, we conquer!" he shouted. Then he died.

From this great event the first marathon race of the modern Olympics Games was run in 1896. It was won by a Greek runner, Spiridon Louis.

And, like Pheidippides a long time before, he also carried messages. He was a postman.

Story



Option 2: Data Projector

Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make copies of worksheets 1 and 2 (1 per pair) • Click on the link to listen/watch the story : http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/short-stories/the-first-marathon
Stage / Time	Procedure
Introduction 7 mins	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Put students into pairs and tell them that they are going to listen to a story about the first marathon. 2. Give out worksheet 1 and get pairs to match the correct words to the pictures. Go around the class, monitor and help. 3. Have a quick feedback with the whole class
Listening 1 5 mins	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell the students that they are going to listen to the story now. 2. They have to listen for the answer to a question. <i>Q :When was the first marathon race of the modern Olympics run? 1896</i> 3. Project the story once. 4. 5. Check with whole class
Listening 2 13 mins	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Give out worksheet 2. The story is not in order. 2. Get students to work with their partner and try to remember the order of the story. 3. Students put the relevant number in the box before each sentence. 4. Project the story again for students to check the answers.
Extension	For homework, get students to invent a new sport for the Olympics and write a set of rules for it.

Option 3: Computer Lab

Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make copies of worksheets 1 and 2 (1 per pair)• Click on the link to listen/watch the story : http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/short-stories/the-first-marathon
Stage / Time	Procedure
Introduction 7 mins	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Put students into pairs and tell them that they are going to listen to a story about the first marathon.2. Give out worksheet 1 and get pairs to match the correct words to the pictures. Go around the class, monitor and help .3. Have a quick feedback with the whole class
Listening 1 5 mins	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Tell the students that they are going to listen to the story now.2. They have to listen for the answer to a question. <i>Q :When was the first marathon race of the modern Olympics run? 1896</i>3. Ss click on the link and watch the story once.4. Check with whole class
Listening 2 13 mins	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Give out worksheet 2. The story is not in order.2. Get students to work with their partner and try to remember the order of the story.3. Students put the relevant number in the box before each sentence.4. Students click on the link and watch the story again to check the answers.
Extension	For homework, get students to invent a new sport for the Olympics and write a set of rules for it.