

Australia - China Project

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL UNIT

The Australian Federation of Societies for Studies of Society and Environment (**AFSSSE**) has developed a number of units of work for teachers of students in middle years/lower secondary to use as the Olympic Games in China approach . HTAA is a member of the AFSSSE consortium.

The unit which has a history and culture focus requires students to investigate the history and cultures of China and the history of the Olympic movement. Teachers ask students to recall their memories of the last Olympics in Athens (2004) and also of the Melbourne Commonwealth Games (2006). Students are reminded that at each such event there is usually a cultural festival held, and that the event begins with an opening ceremony that depicts the culture and history of the host nation.

Students develop a cultural festival and imagine an appropriate opening ceremony for the Olympic Games to be held in Beijing, China in 2008. In order to do this they investigate Olympic traditions, the multiethnic nature of Chinese society, the history of the nation and the gifts it has given to the world.

To conduct the investigation there are four focus questions:

- 2.1 How will the Beijing Olympics reflect the traditions of the Olympic movement?
- 2.2 What is 'culture' and what is Chinese culture?
- 2.3 What gifts has China given to the world?
- 2.4 How would you create an opening ceremony to display Chinese culture and history to the world?

Activities related to each Focus question are provided. Student worksheets for each question can be found after the explanatory notes for teachers.

To download the unit go to www.afssse.asn.au