

Before you begin your UN Security Council simulation, you need to find out more about the Olympic Truce and how it could be used to further international peace and security. The information below will help you get started.

Learning objectives for today

- To find out more about the Olympic Truce
- To prepare for the Security Council debate

WHAT IS THE OLYMPIC TRUCE?

The Olympic Truce can be traced back to the first recorded Olympic Games, held in Olympia on the Peloponnese peninsula of Ancient Greece. Ancient Greece was made up of different regions that were almost constantly at war with each other. To try to find a way to end these wars, King Iphitos, who ruled the region of Elis (in which Olympia is situated), organised an athletic contest once every four years, during which a truce was proclaimed.

In 884BC a treaty was signed by the rulers of the regions of Elis, Sparta and Pisa declaring a truce for the duration of the Games. The Olympic Truce or 'Ekecheiria' began seven days prior to the Games and ended on the seventh day after the Games.

WHAT DID IT ACHIEVE?

The truce allowed competitors and spectators from all over ancient Greece to travel safely across enemy territory to the Games. It also provided a peaceful environment in which the Games could take place. So, from its very beginnings, peace has been of central importance to the staging of the Games.

IS THERE A MODERN OLYMPIC TRUCE?

The Modern Olympic & Paralympic Games seek to carry on this tradition. Working with peace activists, athletes and the UN, the International Olympic Committee looks for ways in which the Games can be used to further peace and security.

THE UN AND THE TRUCE

In 1993 the UN General Assembly passed Resolution 48/11 calling on states to observe the Olympic Truce and 'to build a peaceful and better world through sport.' It has adopted similar resolutions before every Summer and Winter Games since that time.

In modern times, the Truce has enabled:

- Humanitarian assistance to be distributed in conflict-ridden Sarajevo in 1994
- A diplomatic resolution to the 1998 crisis in Iraq
- South and North Korean teams to march together under one flag at the opening ceremony in Sydney in 2000

WHAT CAN THE MODERN TRUCE ACHIEVE?

- A pause in fighting to provide humanitarian assistance
- A window of time for dialogue between warring parties
- International attention for a particular situation
- Help for athletes from conflict areas to attend the Games
- An opportunity for symbolic displays of solidarity between competitors, officials and spectators
- A chance to reflect on the spirit of the Games and how the values of the Olympics can be promoted

Discussion question

Think of some of the wars taking place in the world. Do you think the Olympic Truce could be used to help people living in war zones? If so, how?



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Prepare for your Security Council simulation

Now that you have learned about the UN Security Council and the Olympic Truce, you can begin to prepare for your classroom simulation of a Security Council debate. The aim of your debate will be to produce a UN resolution on the Olympic Truce.

Your teacher will give you a country to represent and some information on that country. Think about what your allocated country would like to see included in a UN resolution on the Olympic Truce.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



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Homework

You will need to work with your partner, either electronically or face-to-face, to finish your preparations for the Security Council simulation. The 'Student preparation tips' handout will help you with your research and position paper, and includes tips on how to prepare for your role as a country ambassador.

1. Read your country profile carefully, looking in particular at the questions provided on the handout. You should do some extra research to ensure that your information is up-to-date.
2. Using your ideas above on what to include in a UN resolution, finish writing your position paper (see the handout for tips on what to include)
3. Agree with your partner who will deliver your position paper and practice presenting it. You may want to split the presentation between you.