

Paralympic Events Lesson and Activity Ideas

LANGUAGE ARTS: Sports Announcer

The Paralympic Games, while gaining in popularity, are still unknown to many people around the world. Sportscasters seek ways to describe the events, so that those not attending the Games understand what is going on. After reading about the Paralympic sports, create an exciting news broadcast that describes one of the Paralympic sports, so that other students might understand what it is and how it is played. Try to capture the excitement of the event through words. Think of the reporter questions: who, what, where, when, how and why as you write your newscast. Use descriptive words that help listeners visualize and catch the excitement of the Paralympic event. Present your speech to the class and then select the best speeches to read over the school intercom during the Paralympics. Describe a different sport each day until the students understand each sport.

CREATIVE THINKING: Adapting Use

The Paralympians use equipment that has been adapted for their use. Paralympians use mono-skis with a molded seat and poles with outriggers. These have been adapted so that disabled athletes can still compete in their favorite sport. Consider ways to adapt regular sports equipment for people who have disabilities that make regular play difficult.

ART: Come to the Games

Create a flyer or brochure to advertise the Paralympics of 2002. Use reporter questions (who, what, where, when and why) to build excitement and advertise the event. Consider which colors, drawings and words might be used to create the most effective flyer to encourage spectator attendance.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Exercise

Paralympians need to develop other muscles to compensate for those that have become disabled. Consider the strengths and skills needed to perfect their performance. What practices or exercises might build these skills? How might the athletes practice during the summer? Imagine that you are a coach for ice sledge hockey. Organize a plan to help young people learn about and perform well in this event. Write an outline of your plan.

SCIENCE: Making it Better

Sports equipment continues to improve through science and technology. Select a favorite sport. Study the equipment and play area used in the sport. Consider ways to improve performance. If possible, make a prototype of the equipment using your ideas. Draw your ideas showing ways to improve the sport.