

THIDA MEP Newsletter

January 2014



The Great Thida Olympics - MEP Camp



By: Teacher Kristin

On Saturday, January 25, we will be having a MEP English camp for all the awesome students in P1-P5! The theme of the camp will be "The Olympics."

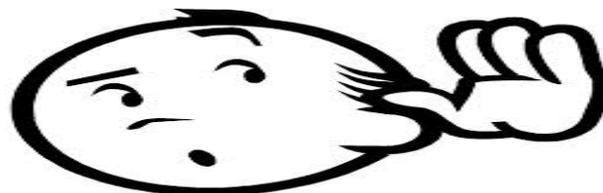
At the beginning of the camp, the students will be split into their Olympic teams at the opening ceremony. During the assemblies we will be singing songs, dancing, practicing English, playing games, and having a lot of fun! The students will rotate with their team to different stations where they will play games, complete races, and compete to win the Thida Olympics.

The games will have the students speaking lots and lots of English, of course! At every station, the students will be learning about a different topic. The topics will be: the solar system, forces, math facts, spelling, and preferences, just to name a few. Here is a sneak preview of the activities that will take place at the "Great Thida Olympics of 2014":

- "Bowling for Thida" with Teacher Dave
- "Hula Hoopla" with Teacher Kristin
- "Category Splash" with Teacher Krystal
- "English War Carry" with Teacher Michael
- "Math Facts Long Jump" with Teacher Eric
- "Super Spelling Relay Race" with Teacher Jade

All of the teachers are really excited about this Olympics camp for MEP. Which Prathom level will win the first ever MEP Thida Olympics? We'll see on January 25...See you there!

P5 Science: Sound and Hearing



By: Teacher Jade

This term in P5 Science we're studying many different topics, such as weather, the water cycle, and the solar-system & Astronomy, but right now we're studying sound and hearing.

Did you know that sound is just the movement of air molecules? When objects vibrate, air molecules are moved and pressure is created. This pressure causes the air molecules to move away from the vibrating object. The air molecules move away in waves called sound waves.

Objects that vibrate quickly will make sounds of a higher pitch. Objects that vibrate slowly make sounds of a lower pitch.

If that's how sound is made, then how do we actually hear it? Sound travels in waves into our ears through the outer ear and into the middle and inner ear. In the middle ear the moving air molecules strike the eardrum. When the moving air molecules strike the eardrum, it vibrates and the sound changes form from a sound wave to mechanical energy. The vibrations travel from the eardrum into the ossicles.

The ossicles are 3 bones attached to the eardrum, named the malleus, incus, and stapes. These 3 bones are the smallest bones in our body. The sound travels through these 3 bones and into the inner-ear, where it is transferred into hydro-mechanical energy in the fluid of the cochlea.

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From the cochlea, the sound is converted into electrical signals, which are transmitted to the brain through the auditory nerve. Once these signals have made it to the brain, they're processed in the auditory cortex.

The auditory cortex is a part of the temporal lobe of the brain, and is responsible for telling us what we're hearing. How do we know what a sound is and where it's coming from? Our auditory cortex!

Whew! Doesn't it seem like sound has to travel a long way for us to hear something? Well it does and the really amazing thing is that it all happens in milliseconds!

Sound a little complicated? Well this is what your MEP5 students are successfully learning about in Science right now! You should be proud!

The Olympics: Facts



By: Teacher Jade

-The first modern Olympics were held in Athens, Greece in 1896.

-The host country Greece won the most medals (47) in the first Olympics of 1896.

-The last time real gold medals were awarded was in 1912 in Stockholm.

-The famous 5 rings of the Olympics represent the Americas, Africa, Asia, Europe, and Australia.

-China did not win a medal in the Olympics until 1984. At the 2008 Beijing Olympics alone, they received 100 medals including 51 gold.

-Gold, silver, and bronze medals were not awarded for first, second, and third place until 1904.

- American swimmer Michael Phelps has won more Olympic medals (22) than any other athlete in the history of the olympics.

P4 Science: Endangered and Extinct Animals



By: Teacher Eric

We've been studying animals in science class for the past few months in P4. The last subject we covered was about endangered and extinct animals. Extinct animals used to live on Earth, but they have all died and none are left. Dinosaurs are one example of extinct animals. There were many kinds of dinosaurs that lived on earth millions of years ago. We learned a little about some of these – brachiosaurus, velociraptor, pterosaur, T-rex, triceratops, and stegosaurus. The dinosaurs were very interesting animals but none are left alive today.

Endangered animals are not extinct, but there are not many left alive. We learned about why it is important to care for endangered animals so they can live longer. There are many species that are endangered because of hunting or habitat destruction. One way we can help to save endangered animals is to conserve their habitats. National parks, protected forests, and wetlands are good for the environment and give animals a safe place to live.

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