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School sausages
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Teamwork
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An Olympic childhood
See where an Olympic mountain bike champion went to school

Dream big
Gymnast aiming to compete in 2012 inspires a new generation

Please contact worldclass@bbc.co.uk if your DVD is missing
Welcome to 2012 Assemblies teacher’s pack

Bring the world into your school with 2012 Assemblies.

This global resource for schools welcomes the world to the UK. The assemblies feature stories about children around the world, and athletes as they prepare for the London Olympics.

Assembly resources include:

- DVD with videos from around the world
- teacher introduction scripts and discussion ideas
- an Assembly Question

You can share the assembly with your partner school and discuss the themes together.

More assemblies are available at bbc.co.uk/worldclass/assemblies
My favourite teacher

1. Script to introduce the video

- What do you think you would need to do to become the fastest runner in the world?
- Do you think you need all the latest equipment, like expensive new trainers?
  Do you think you would need to train in a stadium?

Usain Bolt knows what it takes because he’s the fastest runner in the world. At the Beijing Olympics in 2008 he ran 100m in 9.69 seconds.

Usain was brought up in Jamaica in the Caribbean. He went to an ordinary school and trained on the school’s playing field. He did not have lots of hi-tech equipment but he did have talent, dedication and people that cared about him.

As well as running, he loved playing cricket and wanted to be a cricketer. It was one of his teachers who spotted his athletics talent and persuaded him to focus on running.

In this video Andy Akinwolere visits Usain’s school.

2. Show video

3. Discussion points

- How did Usain’s teacher inspire him?
- What do Ms Thorpe’s pupils say about her?
- How does she make a difference to the pupils she trains?
- How do you think she feels when she sees Usain compete?
- Ms Thorpe is modest about her contribution to Usain’s achievements. Would you be so modest if you were her?
- How do your teachers help you do your best?

Assembly question

Is it more important to have an inspirational teacher or hi-tech equipment?

Email your school’s answer to worldclass@bbc.co.uk

Assembly 1

VIDEO 1 – Usain Bolt’s favourite teacher

Usain’s schools are twinned through World Class and the British Council. To twin your school for 2012 go to bbc.co.uk/worldclass

Find out more about Usain’s journey to 2012 with World Olympic Dreams – bbc.co.uk/2012

Above: Usain’s teacher Lorna Thorpe
Raising Russia’s sports stars

1. Script to introduce the video

- How much time do you spend doing your favourite sport?
- How much time do you think you would need to spend practising if you wanted to get to the Olympics?

Alen is 15 and goes to a sports boarding school in Ekaterinburg in Russia. Pupils at the school practise before breakfast and every afternoon. Lots of students from his school have won medals at the Olympics.

Dasha is nine and goes to a regular school in the same city. She is a gymnast and loves performing. When she is 14 she would like to go to the sports school and get to the Olympics one day.

2. Show video

3. Discussion points

- Alen says that when he started wrestling it was just a hobby. Do you have a hobby that you might like to make into your career?
- Alen lives in the school’s boarding house. Would you like to live at your school? What do you think the good and bad things would be?
- Wrestling training sessions are tough, but Alen and the other boys don’t get angry if they lose. When do you show good sportsmanship? Why is it important?
- Russian athletes have a great record of winning Olympic medals. What do you think it feels like to represent your country? Why do you think Russia tries so hard to win Olympic medals?
- Dasha’s dream is to become a gymnast. Going to the Olympic school is the next step in her plan to achieve this. What is your dream and how can you achieve it?

Assembly question

Would you like to go to an Olympic sports school?

Email your school’s answer to worldclass@bbc.co.uk
Jemma’s special journey

1. Script to introduce the video

- Ask the assembly – have you represented your class? Your year? Your school? Your town? Or even your country? How did you feel?
- Do you ever try and do something which you find really difficult? What is it? What helps you keep going?

Jemma is 13 and was born with heart complications and Down’s syndrome. She hasn’t let this stand in her way and likes to compete in her favourite sport – gymnastics.

Jemma and her family are a team. With their support, she competed against other people with learning disabilities at the Special Olympics World Games which were held in Athens, the capital of Greece.

2. Show video

This video is from the Schools World Service. Go to bbc.co.uk/worldclass/schools_world_service for more stories from children around the world.
3. Discussion points

- Jemma worked really hard to prepare for the Special Olympics and her sisters admire her hard work. What difficulties has Jemma had to overcome?
- Jemma has Down’s syndrome and because of that there are fewer opportunities for her to take part in sport. What do you like about taking part in sport?
- Jemma’s family support her when she competes. What difference does their support make?
- When do you cheer your friends and family on?

Assembly question

Jemma almost won a medal in Athens. Do you think it’s more important to win or take part?

Email your school’s answer to worldclass@bbc.co.uk

About Down’s syndrome

What causes Down’s syndrome?

Every cell in our bodies contains genetic information. This information determines everything about a person including whether they are a boy or a girl and the colour of their eyes and hair. People with Down's syndrome have slightly different genetic information so their bodies and minds will develop differently.

Children with Down's syndrome usually have trouble learning and may learn to speak and look after themselves more slowly than others. They may also have other health issues such as problems with their heart.

The condition affects around one in 1,000 babies born in the UK – about 750 babies a year. There are millions of people across the world with Down's syndrome.

To find out more about Down’s syndrome go to BBC Health bbc.co.uk/health

About the Special Olympics

- The Special Olympics is the largest organised event for people with learning disabilities
- The Games are held every two years and alternate between summer and winter events
- The first summer Special Olympic Games were held in Chicago in 1968

For more information go to www.specialolympics.org

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external websites
Jefferson lives near Mondaña, a village in Ecuador in South America. Mondaña is in the Amazon rainforest. There are very few roads deep in the rainforest, so the children in Mondaña have a very special way of getting to lessons… it’s the school canoe.

Without the school canoe, most of these children would not be able to go to school. It is too difficult to make your way through the rainforest. The Mondaña canoe picks up dozens of children every morning along the banks of the River Napo.

The Napo flows from Ecuador into the Amazon. It’s one of the Amazon’s greatest water sources and in Mondaña it’s also the local highway.

What does Jefferson like to do on his journeys to and from school?

How does Jefferson look after his brothers and sisters?

If Jefferson misses the canoe, neither he nor his brothers and sisters can get to school. Give examples of when you have to be on time.

Why is being on time important? What happens if you are late for school?

In what ways can Jefferson’s journey to school be risky?

When the river rises children go home from school early and when it’s raining the younger children don’t go at all. Despite these risks, families think it is important to attend school. Why do you think this is?

How would you rather travel to school, by canoe or on foot?

Email your school’s answer to worldclass@bbc.co.uk

This video is from the Schools World Service. Go to bbc.co.uk/worldclass/schools_world_service for more stories from children around the world.

Assembly question
Barefoot journeys

1. Script to introduce the video

- Ask the assembly – how do you get to school every morning?
- Ask for a show of hands – who walks, takes the bus, arrives in the car, cycles or runs to school?

In the countryside in Kenya lots of children run to school, including Isabel and Dixon who run for an hour and a half every day to get to school. They go to Kameneru Primary School in the hills around Mount Elgon in Kenya. They are determined to get to school on time.

2. Show video

(Please note: this video contains an interview with a child whose parent has died.)

3. Discussion points

- Why do Isabel and Dixon run to school?
- Why have they never worn shoes?
- Why do they not eat breakfast?
- Isabel’s mum passed away a few weeks before the interview and she talks about it bravely. As a result she has more responsibilities at home. What does she now do to take care of her brothers and sisters?
- What kinds of sportspeople come from their part of Kenya?
- What do Isabel and Dixon want to be when they grow up?
- Why does Isabel want to become a journalist?
- Why does Dixon want to become a pilot?
- How could their journey to school be made easier?

Assembly question

Isabel wants to become a journalist when she grows up. Dixon would like to be a pilot. Would you rather be a journalist or a pilot?

Email your school’s answer to worldclass@bbc.co.uk

This video is from the Schools World Service. Go to bbc.co.uk/worldclass/schools_world_service for more stories from children around the world.

Left: Isabel
Hinrich Romeike is a dentist who lives in Germany. He sees a lot of patients and has a family to look after. Hinrich is also an Olympic horse-riding champion. After winning two gold medals at the Beijing Olympics he hopes to repeat his success in London.

Marius is Hinrich’s horse and the two of them are good friends. They take part in ‘eventing’ which includes cross-country, show-jumping and dressage, which is a bit like ballet on a horse.

Hinrich has a very tough schedule and must fit training around his job.

1. Script to introduce the video

- How many of you have been to the dentist?
- How many dentists do you think also have Olympic medals?

3. Discussion points

- Who is Hinrich Romeike? What does he do?
- What is a typical day for Hinrich?
- Hinrich considers his horse to be a good friend. Do you have any animals that you consider friends? What do you like about having animal friends?
- Hinrich also seems to change his mind and say that Marius cannot really be a friend as he is ‘just a horse’. Why do you think he says that? Can an animal be a real friend?
- Hinrich is busy finding time to be with his family, work and train with his horse. Do you ever feel that you don’t have enough time? What do you do when you can’t find time for everything?

2. Show video

Assembly question

Would you rather be a dentist or ride horses for a living?

Email your school’s answer to worldclass@bbc.co.uk
Women in the ring

1. Script to introduce the video

Women will be able to make history at the London Olympics.

For the first time ever, women’s boxing has been included in the programme of events at London 2012.

Men have already been competing in boxing at the Olympics for over one hundred years.

MC Mary Kom from India dreams of being the first female Olympic boxing champion.

Through willpower and courage, MC Mary Kom has fought her way to success.

Her family and friends are proud of what she has achieved.

2. Show video

3. Discussion points

■ Who is MC Mary Kom?
■ What has she achieved? What is her goal?
■ Why do you think it might have been hard for MC Mary Kom to succeed as a boxer?
■ Do you think women should be allowed to box and why?
■ MC Mary Kom says that willpower is the key to success. Do you know what willpower is? Have you ever had to do something that needed willpower?
■ Lots of children in India have been inspired by MC Mary Kom. How has someone inspired you?

Assembly question

Should there be sports that only men or women take part in?

Email your school’s answer to worldclass@bbc.co.uk

Find out more about MC Mary Kom’s journey to 2012 with World Olympic Dreams – bbc.co.uk/2012
Rebuilding Japan

1. Script to introduce the video

- Ask the assembly if they know what happened in Japan in March 2011.
- Ask if they have ever experienced an earthquake, tidal wave or even a flood and ask them to describe their experience.

In March 2011, large parts of Japan were damaged by a big earthquake and a tidal wave known as a tsunami. Lots of houses were washed away so children had to stay in temporary shelters.
Shoto and Shotoro go to school in Kesennuma, one of the towns on the north-east coast that was badly affected by the disaster.

2. Show video

3. Discussion points

- What happened to Shotoro? What are the difficulties where he lives at the moment?
- How do you think you would feel if your house and belongings were washed away? What would you miss the most?
- What differences did you notice between Japanese schools and your school?
- What must the children do every day before they go home? Do you think this is a good idea?
- What does Shotoro want to happen so that he and his family do not lose their house again?
- What do Shotoro and his family do to help the other people where he lives at the moment?

Assembly question

What would you miss the most if your house was washed away – your bike or TV?

Email your school’s answer to worldclass@bbc.co.uk
School sausages

1. Script to introduce the video
- Ask the assembly what they had for dinner last night or what their favourite meal is.

Choose a couple of examples and ask pupils if they know the food origins of different elements of the meal. Were they grown in the ground or on a tree? Did they come out of the sea or from an animal?

This school in Kent, in the south-east of England, has a school farm. They have some of their lessons there and learn where food comes from. This film shows what happens on the farm and how it provides food for local people.

2. Show video

3. Discussion points
- What kinds of animals do they keep on the school farm?
- What does the farm produce that is then sold at the school?
- What do the pupils say they learn from having some of their lessons on the farm?
- Do you think that finding out where your food comes from is a good idea? Why? Have you ever been to a farm or do any of you live on a farm?
- Would you be happy for animals from the farm to be sold as food? Why?

Assembly question
If your school had a farm and you helped to take care of the animals, would you be happy to eat the meat?

Email your school’s answer to worldclass@bbc.co.uk

This video was produced in March 2011 by BBC News School Report which gives UK students aged 11 to 16 the chance to make their own news reports. Find out more at bbc.co.uk/schoolreport
Teamwork

1. Script to introduce the video

- Who can ride a bike? Do you have your own bike? What is it like? Where do you go cycling on it?

Julien Absalon is a mountain biker from France.

Julien has won two Olympic gold medals and wants to win more medals at London 2012. His bikes are probably very different to the ones that you or your family might have. They are especially light and modern.

Julien says he couldn’t be successful without the help of his team. Olympic champions often have a team of people who support them. For example they might need someone to make sure they eat the right things, somebody else to help them train and a doctor to look after them.

2. Show video

Find out more about Julien’s journey to 2012 with World Olympic Dreams – bbc.co.uk/2012

Julien is hoping to win gold in 2012

3. Discussion points

- How do Julien’s team help him?
- Would you be happy to be Julien’s mechanic or would you want to win medals?
- Are you part of a team? What do you do?
- What teams can you think of outside sport?

Assembly question

Do you prefer to compete on your own or in a team?

Email your school’s answer to worldclass@bbc.co.uk
An Olympic childhood

1. Script to introduce the video

■ What have children from your school gone on to do? Have any of them become famous?
■ If you were to make a video about your hometown what would you film?

The primary school of French mountain biker Julien Absalon is twinned with a school in Chester, UK.
The pupils in France wanted to give the children in England an idea of what Julien’s life was like when he was younger.
They have made their own video, to show their hometown and cheer him on for another Olympic medal.

2. Show video

3. Discussion points

■ How are Julien’s school and town different to yours?
■ Why do you think the pupils are proud of Julien?
■ What was Julien like when he was younger according to his mum and his teacher?
■ Do you think your teacher and your parents would say different things about you?

Assembly question

Julien liked PE and maths when he was at school. Which do you prefer?
Email your school’s answer to worldclass@bbc.co.uk

Julien’s schools are twinned through World Class and the British Council. To twin your school for 2012 go to bbc.co.uk/worldclass
Dream big

1. Script to introduce the video

Gymnast Shawn Johnson won one gold medal and three silver medals for the USA at the 2008 Olympics when she was 16. Since Beijing Shawn has become well-known in the US for winning the equivalent of Strictly Come Dancing and appearing on TV chat shows. Despite suffering a knee injury in 2009 she is now back in the gym and training hard to compete at London 2012.

When she was 13 she started at Valley Southwoods High and competed at the Olympics in Beijing while she was still at the school.

2. Show video

3. Discussion points

- Why is it important to have a dream?
- What do you need to do to make your dream a reality?
- What obstacles are you likely to face?
- Is it better to have a dream or a plan?
- Do you think Shawn can make it to London 2012?

Assembly question

Is it better to win Olympic gold or Strictly Come Dancing?

Email your school’s answer to worldclass@bbc.co.uk

Find out more about Shawn’s journey to 2012 with World Olympic Dreams – bbc.co.uk/2012
Be part of the World’s Biggest Assembly

Join in online with schools around the world in the summer term
Find out more at bbc.co.uk/worldclass
What is World Class?

World Class is the BBC’s global citizenship project for schools and works in partnership with the British Council.

How can my school get involved?
• Join to twin your school for 2012
• Build up to the London Olympics with 2012 Assemblies
• Share topical stories every month with the Schools World Service

Go to bbc.co.uk/worldclass to find out more.

For more resources to bring 2012 into your school go to bbc.co.uk/teach2012
Bring the world into your school with World Class
bbc.co.uk/worldclass

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The videos can also be streamed from World Class:
bbc.co.uk/worldclass/assemblies