

Beijing 2008 Olympic Games

Economics &
business

Environment

Geography

History &
culture

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Australian Government



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AFSSSE Australia-China project

Beijing 2008 Olympic Games resource

Geography unit

Introduction

This unit provides students with an opportunity to develop their geographic knowledge and apply geographical skills through a series of inquiry-based activities related to the Beijing Olympic Games. Geospatial concepts are used as the framework for inquiry-based activities that are based upon a series of focus questions. Students also examine and evaluate aspects of planning and management related to a major event such as the Olympic Games. Each inquiry forms an independent unit of work and it is not necessary for them to be studied in sequence.

1 Focus questions

1.1 Where in the world is Beijing?

Inquiry activity 1

Students investigate the distance and direction of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games from major cities on each continent.

1.2 How can Australians get to the Beijing Olympic Games?

Inquiry activity 2

Students investigate the routes and modes of transport they would use to reach Beijing.

1.3 Where will the Olympic Torch go on its way to the Beijing Olympic Games?

Inquiry activity 3

Students investigate the route the Olympic Torch will follow on its way to the Opening Ceremony at the Beijing 2008 Games.

1.4 What might the weather be like in Beijing during the Olympic Games?

Inquiry activity 4

Students investigate the climatic characteristics of eastern China and the weather that might be expected during the period of the Games.

1.5 Where are the Beijing Olympic Games events being held?

Inquiry activity 5

Students investigate the location, distribution and accessibility of venues in Beijing and outside of Beijing.

1.6 What other attractions could I visit during my stay in Beijing?

Inquiry activity 8

Students investigate the location, distribution and accessibility of popular tourist sites in Beijing and nearby.

Where in the world is Beijing?

Imagine that you have just been told to pack your bags and get ready for the trip of a lifetime. You've just won a trip with three of your best friends to attend the Olympic Games in Beijing.

You have heard a lot about the Beijing Olympic Games through television and newspaper reports but where on earth is Beijing? You know from the publicity that it is somewhere in China, but exactly where you are unsure. You also have no idea how far away China is from Australia or what route you would take to get there.

If you have an atlas now is the time to use it or alternatively you could use a map provided on the internet. It is tempting to open the atlas, look in the contents listing for China, turn to the relevant page and start searching for Beijing. There is, however, a better way. Refer to the index and look under 'B' for Beijing. The page number will be provided as well as the latitude and longitude. Now is a good time to remind yourself that lines of latitude are drawn from west to east and lines of longitude are drawn from north to south.

The **absolute location** of a place is determined by its latitude and longitude.

1. Record the latitude and longitude of Beijing.

The latitude of the equator is 0 degrees and it separates the northern and southern hemispheres. All other lines of latitude are drawn parallel to the equator and are an equal distance apart from each other.

2. In which hemisphere is Beijing located?
3. Refer to the page on which Beijing is shown in your atlas. Find its location and mark this on the map provided in Resource 1. Add a label to the point used to show Beijing's location on your map.

The **relative location** describes where a place is relative to other places. For example, it indicates the distance and direction of the place from other geographic features such as the coastline, mountain ranges, other major cities or political boundaries. When using an atlas you have to refer to the scale of the map to calculate the actual distances on the surface of the Earth. For example, if the scale of a map of China is 1:20 000 000 then one centimetre on the map is representing 200 kilometres on the ground. To calculate the number of kilometres represented on the ground from a scale using a ratio you must divide the second number in the ratio by 100 000 or the number of centimetres in one kilometre.

4. Describe the relative location of Beijing from the following features.

<i>Place</i>	<i>Relative location (ie distance and direction)</i>
Sea of China	
Yangtze River	
Himalayan mountains	
North Pole	

5. Use an atlas to locate each of the cities listed in the table below. Mark their location and label them on the world map (Resource 1). Draw a straight line from Beijing to each of the following cities then complete the details in the following table.

Note: Use the scale line to measure the distance in a straight line from Beijing to each of the cities listed below.

City		Continent	Distance from the city to Beijing	Direction from the city to Beijing
London	England			
Atlanta	United States			
Buenos Aires	Argentina			
Johannesburg	South Africa			
Tokyo	Japan			
Auckland	New Zealand			

6. Which of the cities listed in the table above have hosted an Olympic Games and when did they do?

It would be advantageous to undertake this inquiry in conjunction with some aspects of the Economics/Business unit.

How can Australians get to the Beijing Olympic Games?

Getting to the Beijing Olympic Games may at first seem like a simple task of catching a plane from the nearest international airport to Beijing, however, not everyone lives close to an international airport with direct flights to Beijing. If you are living on a cattle station in outback Australia how would you get to Sydney or Melbourne? Would it be possible to fly direct from Darwin, Perth or Adelaide to Beijing? If you are living in Queenstown, Tasmania what options do you have for reaching your nearest international airport? In the following section you will investigate the options available to Australians living in various parts of the continent.

Imagine that you are employed as a travel consultant in a travel agency. As the Beijing Olympic Games approach you receive more and more enquiries relating to travel to attend the Games. Your task is to respond to enquiries from people living in different parts of Australia asking you to make recommendations about the best way for them to travel to the Beijing Olympic Games.

1. Prepare a travel planner for each of the people living in the following locations who have made a request for advice about traveling to attend the Beijing Olympic Games.
 - Launceston, Tasmania
 - Mount Gambier, South Australia
 - Kalgoorlie, Western Australia
 - Katherine, Northern Territory
 - Longreach, Queensland

Your first task is to locate each of the places listed above using an atlas. Observe the distance of each place from the nearest major city and then use your internet search engine to research alternative options for international flights from that Australian city to Beijing.

Each plan should include the following details:

- Name of nearest international airport
 - Distance from their place of residence to the international airport
 - Recommended form of transport from place of residence to the international airport
 - Two different options for air flights to travel from their nearest international airport to Beijing. For each option include details of the name of the carrier (ie name of aircraft operator), flight number(s), duration of flight and number of stopovers, if any. If there are stopovers where would they occur?
2. Using the base map provided (Resource 2) to show one recommended route from each of the five Australian home cities. Use a different colour for each itinerary and ensure that this colour is identified in the legend of the map.
 3. What might each of the five passengers for whom you have prepared an itinerary be able to tell people in Beijing about their home city? Record two or three things for which each of their home cities is well known.

Where will the Olympic Torch go on its way to the Beijing Olympic Games?

One of the most important events preceding each Olympic Games is the Olympic Torch Relay. Traditionally the Olympic Torch Relay starts its journey with the lighting of the flame in front of the temple of Hera at Olympia, in Greece where the Olympic Games were first held. It ends with the Olympic Torch being carried in to the stadium during the Opening Ceremony and used to ignite a flame that burns for the duration of the Olympic Games.

The Olympic Torch has become an important symbol of each Olympic Games with careful thought given to the route followed after leaving Olympia, Greece until it reaches the host city. Recent Olympic Games organisers have also tried to design a torch that symbolizes characteristics of the host country. For example, the Sydney Olympic Games Torch reflected aspects of the design of the Sydney Opera House and the colours of the Pacific Ocean¹.

Both the Olympic Torch and the Olympic Flame have been introduced during the modern era of the Olympic Games.

1. Use an atlas to locate Olympia in Greece. Mark and label the location of Olympia and Athens on the map of Greece provided. (Inset map—Resource 3)
2. Describe the absolute location (that is latitude and longitude) of Olympia and its relative location from Athens (distance and direction).
3. Find out when and where the burning of an Olympic Flame first took place and what the burning of the flame was intended to symbolize.² Mark and label the location of this place on a blank world map. (Resource 3)
4. Find out when and where the carrying of an Olympic Torch in a relay of runners first occurred and where the Olympic Torch was carried. Mark and label the location of this place on a blank world map. (Resource 3)

The organisers of the Beijing Olympic Games are planning to achieve something never done before during an Olympic Relay. They have announced their plan for the Olympic Torch to be carried to the top of the highest mountain in the world during May 2008! According to the organisers the Olympic Torch will be carried by a team of mountaineers from the southern side in Nepal to the peak before the mountaineers descend via the northern slope into Tibet.³ A team of mountaineers has already begun training for this historic attempt. This will be an amazing accomplishment and will undoubtedly catch the imagination and interest of a huge audience around the world.

Mt Everest the highest mountain in the world is located on the border between Nepal and Tibet an autonomous region of China. The Chinese name for Mount Everest is Qomolangma, Tibetans call the mountain Chomolungma whilst the Nepalese name is Sagarmatha. As the highest point on Earth there has always been great interest in determining its exact height whilst for mountaineers it is considered to be one of the most challenging peaks to climb.

5. Using an atlas identify the location of Mount Everest and mark this on a blank world map. (Resource 3)
6. Who were the first climbers to reach the summit of Mount Everest and when did they achieve this historic event.

The height of Mount Everest was first calculated by an Indian mathematician and surveyor in 1852 using trigonometric calculations. Since that time there have been many other measurements each claiming to provide the most accurate elevation. In May 1999, an American mountaineer reached the summit and used a GPS (Global Positioning Systems) to obtain precise measurements from satellites orbiting in space. A GPS can provide incredibly accurate measurements and as a result of measurements made during this expedition the elevation of Mount Everest was revised to 8850 metres. However, this has not been the end of the debate. In 2005 a group of Chinese surveyors published an elevation of 8,844.43 metres based on the height of the highest piece of solid rock at the peak.⁴ The ice at the top of the mountain is 3.5 metres thick. Previous measurements had included the height of ice and snow sitting on the top of Mount Everest.

7. Do you think the height of Mount Everest should be based on the height of highest solid rock or highest point of solid ice and snow on which mountaineers stand? Explain your reasons.

The lighting of the Olympic Torch will occur at Olympia in March 2008 and be handed over to officials of the Beijing Olympic Games at a ceremony in Athens shortly afterwards. It will then travel to 28 cities around the world before arriving in China. The Olympic Torch will be carried by runners for most of the land based route, however, on occasions it will be transported by aircraft or other means. The proposed route will take the Olympic flame through the sites of the great ancient civilizations in Greece, Italy, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, India and finally, China. The route through the Middle East may not be guaranteed due to the political climate in the region.

8. Undertake research to identify the cities through which the Olympic Torch will travel during 2008. List the name of the countries in which each major city is located.
9. Mark the route of the Olympic Torch Relay on a world map. (Resource 3)
10. Select one major city from each continent through which the Olympic Torch will travel. Describe a link each city has to the Olympics, for example the city may have been a former host of an Olympic Games, home of a well known athlete or sports team etc.
11. Create a timeline showing the dates and countries the Olympic Torch will be in from the start of the relay in March 2008 until it arrives at the Opening Ceremony on 8 August 2008. (Resource 4)
12. Prepare a short description of the characteristics of each city selected in the previous question making reference to its current population, rate of growth, major industries and attractions.

In China, the Olympic Torch Relay will pass through 78 cities before arriving at the Opening Ceremony. The plan is for the Olympic Games to be opened at 08:08pm and 08 seconds on 8 August (the eighth month) 2008. The number 8 is associated with prosperity in Chinese culture.

What might the weather be like during the Beijing Olympic Games?

Beijing is described as having a continental monsoon climate, but what does that mean? Why is it described as being 'continental' when it is relatively close to the coast? How does it differ from the climate where you live? What type of weather are the athletes likely to experience during the period of the Games? Will it be very different from the conditions they might experience in their home country?

In this investigation you will consider the distinction between the terms weather and climate, examine data related to Beijing's climate and compare that with the area in which you live and then consider what the weather might be like during August 2008 when the Beijing Olympic Games are held.

The terms weather and climate are often confused with one another. The term weather refers to the atmospheric conditions at a particular time and place. For example, the weather occurring at your school location relates to conditions such as the temperature, precipitation (eg rain, snow, drizzle etc), relative humidity, wind and sunshine. Climate on the other hand refers to the average of the weather conditions measured over a long period of time.

Despite Beijing's proximity to the coast the prevailing winds for much of the year are from the northwest and therefore influenced by the weather conditions over the large continental land mass of Asia. The marked seasonal variation of air masses and wind patterns gives rise to the use of the term monsoon which is derived from an Arabic word '*mausim*' meaning season. During the winter months the temperature over central Asia is very low, creating a zone of high pressure. Winds blow from areas of high atmospheric pressure towards areas with lower air pressure. When high pressure patterns occur during winter over central Asia, Beijing faces the full onslaught of bitterly cold dry winds blowing from the cold interior. With the start of warm to hot conditions during summer months the pressure systems are reversed and onshore winds bring warm moist air from the Pacific Ocean. This is the start of the rainy monsoon season.

Using the climate graph and statistics shown in Resources 5 and 6 you will gain a clearer idea of what weather conditions are like at different times of the year in Beijing.

1. Examine the climate graph in Resource 5. During which months of the year does the average temperature exceed 20 degrees Celsius and when is it below 0 degrees Celsius?
2. What is the annual range of temperature experienced in Beijing? (Hint: temperature range refers to the difference between the highest and lowest temperatures)
3. During which season of the year does most precipitation occur? Do you think this precipitation would occur as rain or snow? Give your reasons.
4. Examine the climate statistics in Resource 6.⁵ In the table below describe the characteristics of each of the seasons making reference to average temperatures, precipitation (includes rain, hail and snow) and the number of rainy days that might be expected.

Season	Months	Average Temperatures	Precipitation	Number of rainy days
Winter				
Spring				
Summer				
Autumn				

5. Obtain climate statistics for the capital city of the State/Territory in which you live. You can obtain this information from the climate tables on the Australian Bureau of Meteorology website at <www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/> or from a website such as the BBC's weather page at <www.bbc.co.uk/weather/world/city_guides/>. Write a comparison of the climate experienced in your State/Territory's capital city with that experienced by Beijing.

What might the weather be like during the Beijing Olympic Games Opening Ceremony? Most weather forecasts are for the next few days so it is impossible to make any predictions such a long time prior to the event. However, you could have a look at past weather conditions at the same time on the same day during previous years and attempt to make your own long term prediction!

6. A person who studies the weather and makes forecasts about the weather for the following day is known as a meteorologist. In this activity you will work with a partner or partners imagining that you are meteorologists. Use the weather data available from the website at <<http://en.beijing2008.cn/93/67/column211716793.shtml>> to search for the actual weather conditions that occurred at 8.00pm on 8 August in previous years. Share the gathering and recording of the weather details experienced on days in the past and record the data in a table (Resource 7), however, you should each make your own predictions regarding the likely weather to be experienced at the Opening Ceremony. Details of the weather recording for

8/8/2003 have already been entered for you. Compare the predictions you made with other members of your group. (Resource 7)

Imagine how athletes completing in the Beijing Olympic Games from different countries have to adjust to a change of climate. In some cases there may be only minor climatic differences as their home city might be located on the eastern seaboard and at a similar latitude in the northern hemisphere to Beijing. However, athletes come from countries around the globe and for some there might be quite significant variations from the conditions in which they have completed their training.

7. Using the BBC's weather page <www.bbc.co.uk/weather/world/city_guides/> to explain how the weather experienced during August 2008 in the following cities might differ from the conditions in Beijing during the Olympic Games: Hobart in Australia, Colombo in Sri Lanka, Addis Abba in Ethiopia, and New York in the USA.

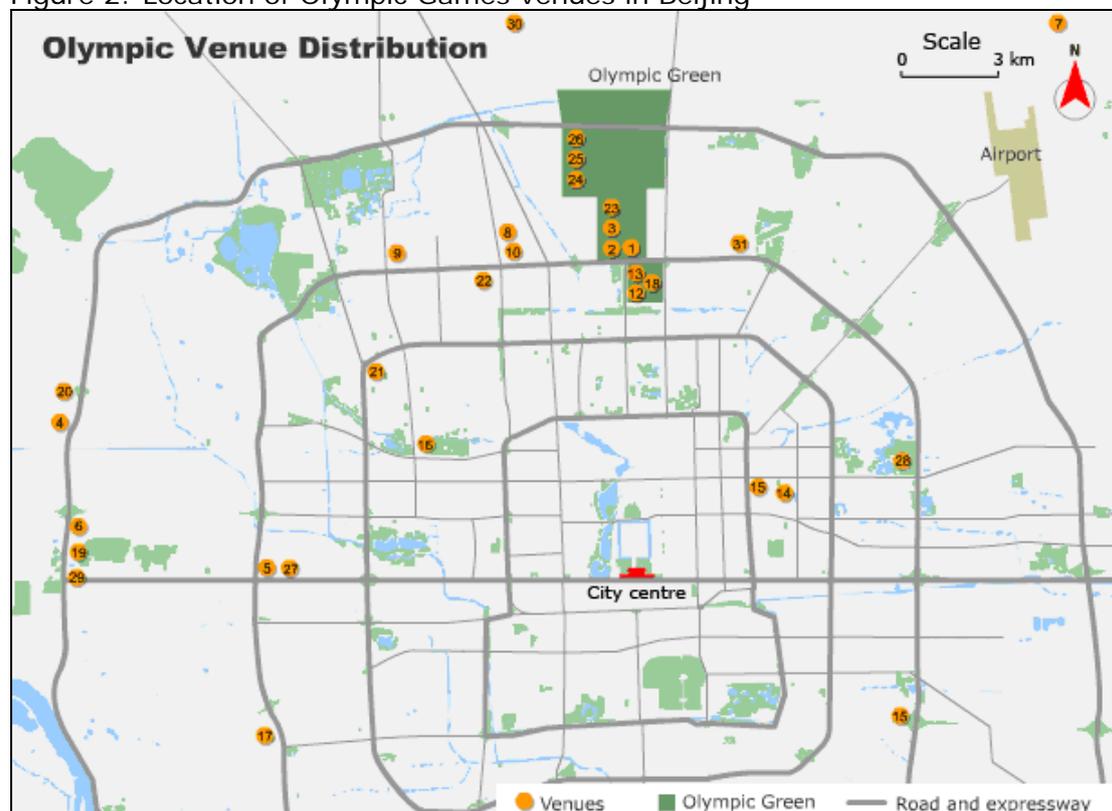
Where are the Beijing Olympic Games events being held?

So the Olympic Games are being held in Beijing? Yes and no! The overwhelming majority of events will be held in this city, but some events will be staged elsewhere in China. In this activity you will examine the location and distribution of events to Games venues and how people will get to them.

An area in the north of Beijing called the Olympic Green is the location for the Olympic Village and nearly half of the Olympic venues, including the National Stadium where the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympic Games will be held.⁶ Fifteen different sports will compete in this area during the Games. Olympic Green includes large areas of open space which have been used to construct new stadiums and facilities required by athletes such as accommodation.

1. Examine the map of Beijing shown in Figure 2. Identify Beijing Green and estimate its distance by road from the airport. In which direction would you be traveling from the airport to Beijing Green?
2. Accessibility to each of the Olympic Games venues is made easier by a series of ring roads that have been constructed around Beijing. List the advantages and disadvantages of this road pattern compared to a system of roads that radiate from the centre like the spokes of a bicycle wheel.
3. How does Beijing's road pattern compare to the road pattern in the capital city of your State/Territory? Discuss these advantages and disadvantages of these road patterns with other members of your class.

Figure 2: Location of Olympic Games venues in Beijing



Source: <http://en.beijing2008.cn/46/67/column211716746.shtml>

(50 hectares) and the China International Exhibition Center (CIEC) (405 hectares). The Olympic Village and nearly half of the Olympic venues will be located in the Olympic Green, including the National Stadium where the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympic Games will be held. The Olympic Green will host the competitions of 15 Olympic sports in 2008.

A few the Olympic Games events will be held at locations beyond Beijing.⁷ These events are shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Olympic Games Venues outside Beijing

Venues	Location	Games
Hong Kong Equestrian Venues	Hong Kong	Equestrian
Qingdao International Sailing Centre	Qingdao	Sailing
Qinhuangdao Olympic Sports Centre Stadium	Qinhuangdao	Football Preliminary
Shanghai Stadium	Shanghai	Football Preliminary
Tianjin Olympic Centre Stadium	Tianjin	Football Preliminary
Shenyang Wulihe Stadium	Shenyang	Football Preliminary

Source: <http://www.travelchinaguide.com/beijing-olympic/venues.htm>

- Use an atlas to identify the location of Games venues outside Beijing and locate these on a map of China (Resource 8). Label each city's location and record the type of sporting event to be held at each city.
Hint: Use an online atlas such as Encarta World Atlas to search for the locations of these cities
<http://encarta.msn.com/encnet/features/mapcenter/map.aspx>
- Consider the sporting events to be held outside of Beijing. Which sporting event would you most like to attend? Record this event and then research information about the co-host city where the event is to be held. Write a paragraph describing the size, location, major function(s) of the city (eg port city, industry, commerce, administration etc) and attractions of the city. A starting point for your research might be
<http://en.beijing2008.com/21/65/column212006521.shtml>

What other attractions could I visit during my stay in Beijing?

Would you attend the Beijing Olympic Games and not make a trip to see the Great Wall of China? If you had not seen the Great Wall previously it would undoubtedly be high on your list of 'must see' destinations and having made the long flight to Beijing it would be a pity to miss this opportunity of visiting one of the top seven tourist travel wonders of the world.

Beijing is expecting an influx of tourists during the Olympic Games and anticipates that most of these tourists will want to visit some of the many attractions that are located within the city or are close by.

1. Work with a friend to gather information about four major attractions tourists might visit during a visit to the Beijing Olympic Games. Use the table below as a guide to record details of each attraction.

Name of attraction	
Type of attraction eg cultural, historical, recreational, leisure etc	
What the visitor would see	
Location	
Distance from central Beijing	
Means of transport to reach the destination from central Beijing	
Hours of opening and days when the attraction can be visited	
Entrance fee, if any	
General advice, such as best time to visit etc.	

2. Prepare a double-sided A4 brochure for tourists visiting the Beijing Olympic Games that sets out the attractions of the city and its neighbourhood. Include a map to show the location of the attractions and use the information gathered in activity 1 above to describe the nature of each attraction.

Resources

Resource 1

Blank map of the world

Resource 2

Blank map of East Asia and Australia

Resource 3

Blank map of the world with inset of Greece

Resource 4

Timeline

Resource 5

Beijing: Climate graph

Resource 6

Beijing: Climate statistics

Resource 7

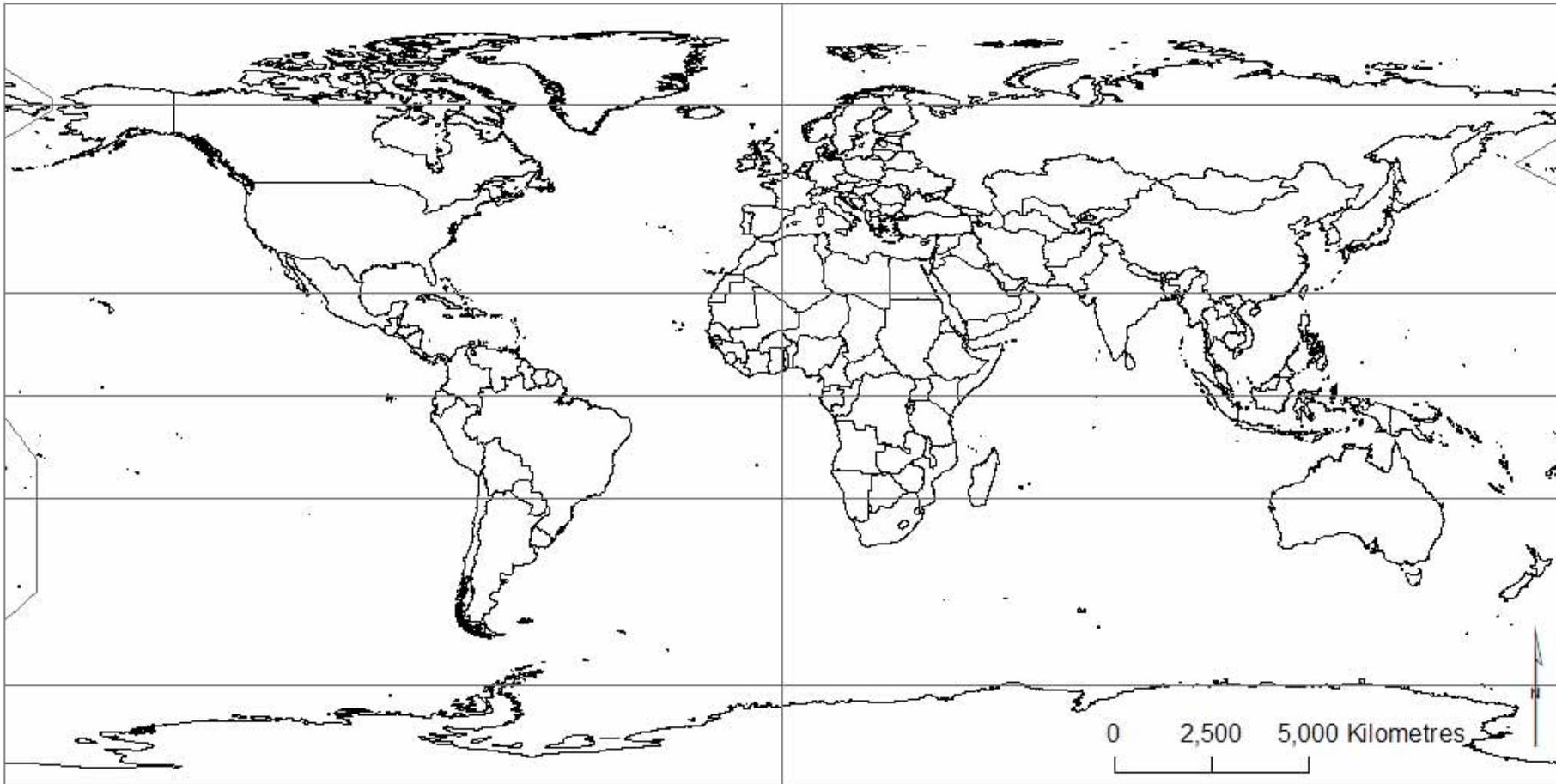
Beijing: Weather prediction

Resource 8

Blank map of China

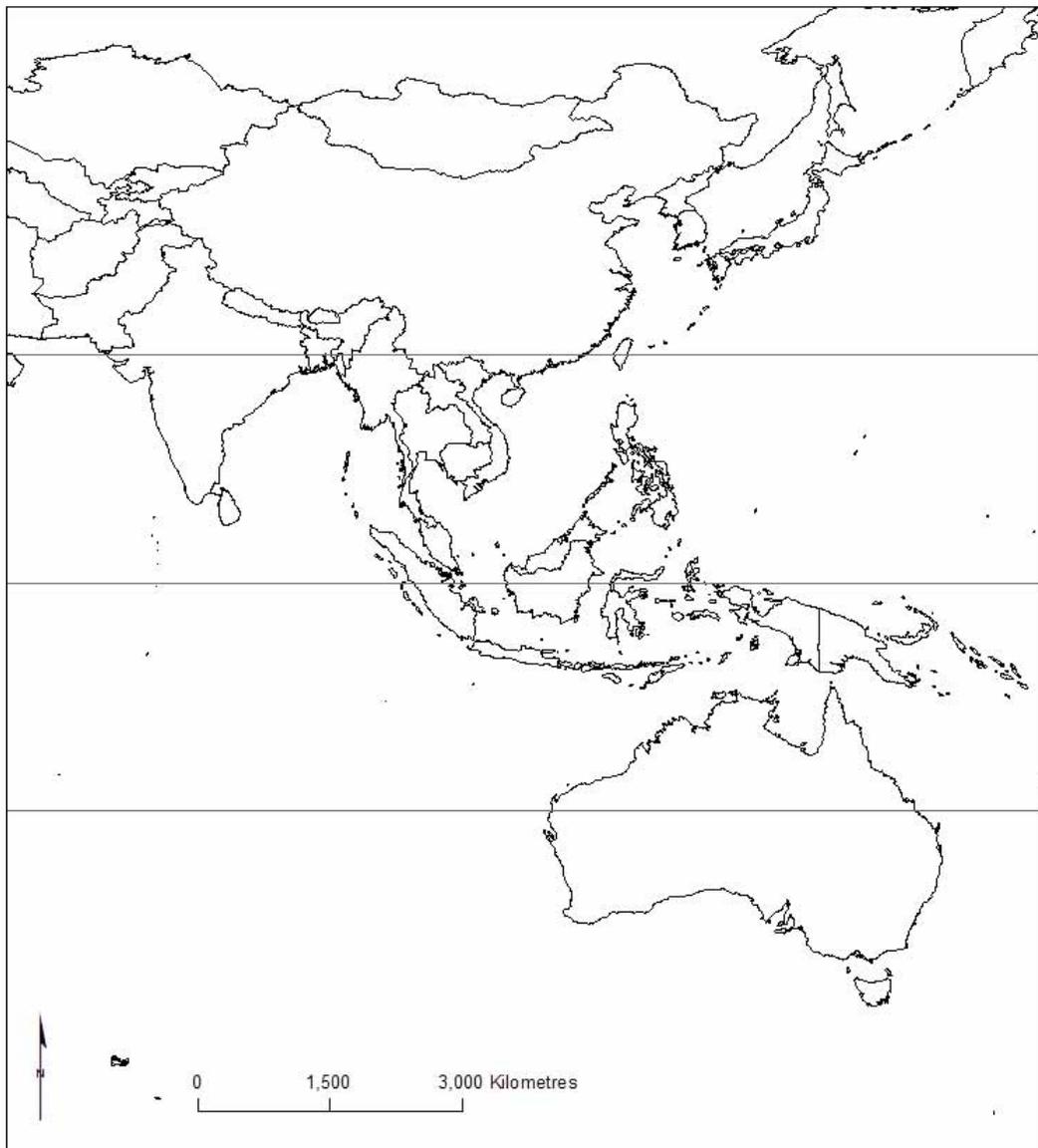
Resource 1: Where in the world is Beijing?

Map of the world



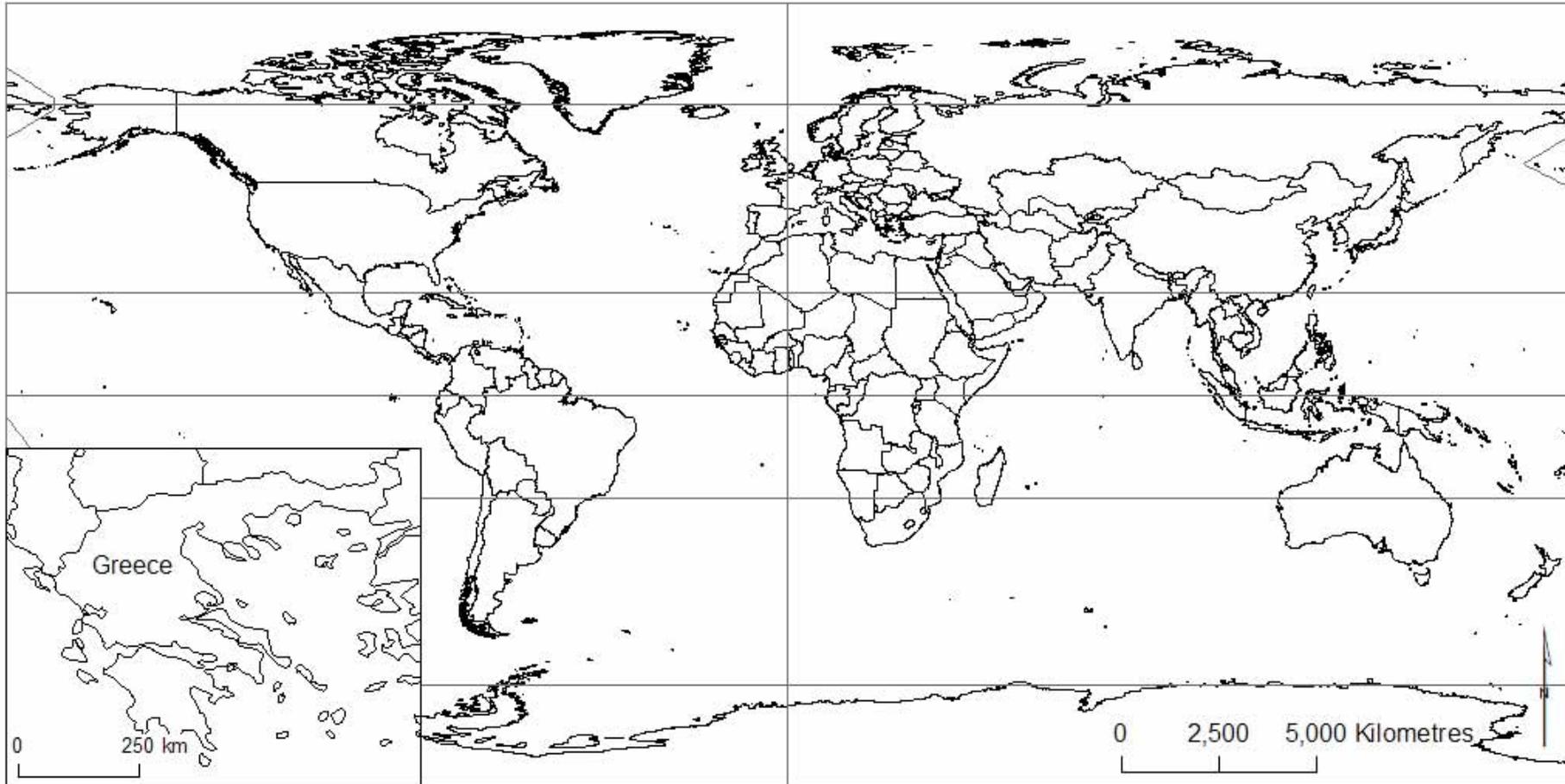
Resource 2: How can Australians get to Beijing Olympic Games?

Map of Asia and Australia



Resource 3: Where will the Olympic Torch go on its way to Beijing?

World map (inset map of Greece)



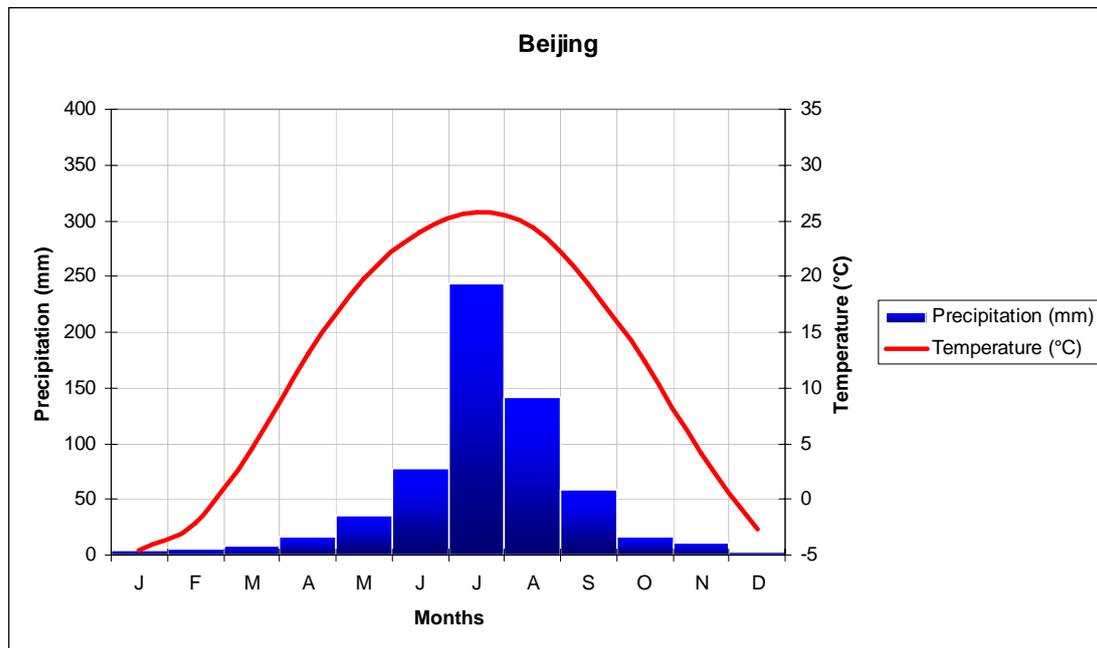
Resource 4: Where will the Olympic Torch go on its way to Beijing?

Timeline

1	15	31	1	15	30	1	15	31	1	15	30	1	15	31	1	8
March 2008			April 2008			May 2008			June 2008			July 2008			August 2008	
																Opening Ceremony

Resource 5: What might the weather be like at the time of the Opening Ceremony?

Beijing—climate graph



Resource 5: What might the weather be like at the time of the Opening Ceremony?

Beijing—climate data

Month	Average Sunlight (hours)	Temperature				Discomfort from heat and humidity	Relative humidity		Average Precipitation (mm)	Wet Days (+0.25 mm)
		Average Min	Average Max	Record Min	Record Max		am	pm		
Jan	7	-10	1	-23	14	-	50	-	4	3
Feb	7	-8	4	-18	19	-	50	-	5	3
March	8	-1	11	-14	28	-	48	-	8	3
April	8	7	21	-3	36	-	46	-	17	4
May	9	13	27	3	38	Moderate	49	-	35	6
June	9	18	31	10	43	High	56	-	78	8
July	7	21	31	15	41	High	72	-	243	13
Aug	7	20	30	11	38	High	74	-	141	11
Sept	8	14	26	2	34	Medium	67	-	58	7
Oct	8	6	20	-5	31	-	59	-	16	3
Nov	6	-2	9	-13	24	-	56	-	11	3
Dec	6	-8	3	-20	13	-	51	-	3	2

(Source: http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/world/city_guides/results.shtml?tt=TT002100)

Resource 6: What might the weather be like at the time of the Opening Ceremony?

Beijing weather observations at 8.00pm on 8 August

(Note: 8.00pm is equivalent to 20 Hours or 2000 using a 24 hour clock)

Date	Time	Temperature (°C)	Rainfall (mm)	Relative Humidity (%)	Atmospheric pressure (Hpa)	Wind		Max Gust	
						Speed (m/s)	Direction	speed (m/s)	Direction
8/8/2003	20	22.9	.1	75	995.6	2.2	SW	2.3	SW
8/8/2004	20								
8/8/2005	20								
8/8/2006	20								
8/8/2007	20								
Enter your prediction below									
8/8/2008	20								

Resource 8: Where are the Beijing Olympic Games events being held??

Map of China



Key terms

Spatial concepts

Spatial concepts (SCs) or key geographic ideas (KGIs) are central to the way in which geographers describe and interpret the spatial patterns of phenomena on the Earth's surface. They include location, scale, distance, direction, region, spatial change over time, movement, spatial association and spatial interaction.

Location

Location refers to both the absolute and relative location of a place. Absolute location indicates the coordinates of a place whereas relative location gives the distance and direction of one place to another.

Scale

The scale of a map refers to the relationship between measurements on a map and the actual size of the feature shown. When studying the geography of an area one refers to the observational scale which indicates the relative size of the area being studied eg local, regional, national, international and global scales.

Distance

Distance refers to the space between the locations things on the Earth's surface measured in either metric units (eg metres and kilometres) or Imperial units (eg feet, yards and miles).

Distribution

Distribution describes the arrangement of things at or near the Earth's surface viewed at different scales, for example clustered around a node or single area, arranged in a linear pattern or scattered in an uneven manner.

Region

A region is a definable area with one or more common characteristics. For example, a region might describe an area of similar topography, climate, vegetation or agriculture.

Spatial change over time

Refers to the way in which the arrangement, distribution or pattern of phenomena change over a period of time. The rate and amount of change taking place is of great interest to geographers and the focus of much of their research is to identify the influence different factors have in bringing about these spatial changes.

Movement

Movement describes the change in the location of one or more things across the Earth's surface, including the direction, method, rate, nature and volume of movement.

Spatial association

One of the most important spatial concepts relates to the degree to which two or more things are similarly distributed in an area, for example strong, moderate, weak or no spatial association. When studying the distribution of Olympic Games venues you might consider how closely they are associated with subway stations, transport routes, or places of cultural and historic importance.

Spatial interaction

Spatial interaction describes the relationship between phenomena and places in the environment and the degree to which they affect each other. For example, the construction of new facilities such as sports stadiums or freeways may have an impact on the local environment which might be positive or negative.

Latitude

Latitude is the distance north or south of the equator measured as an angle from the centre of the Earth. Parallels of latitude are the imaginary lines that join all places with the same angular distance north or south of the equator. They are called parallels of latitude because they are always parallel to the equator and therefore equidistant from one another.

Longitude

Longitude is the distance west or east of the prime meridian measured as an angle from the axis of the Earth. Meridians of longitude are the imaginary lines that join all places with the same angular distance west or east of the prime meridian. The prime meridian passes through the city of Greenwich on the outskirts of London in England and so is often referred to as the Greenwich Meridian. Meridians of longitude are widest apart at the equator and they meet as a point at the North and South Poles.

Climate

Climate refers to the average conditions of the atmosphere for a particular area of the Earth over a long period of time. Generally a time span of at least 30 years is required to obtain reliable climatic averages.

Weather

The weather is the day-to-day condition of the atmosphere at a particular location. Usually measurements are made of the temperature, precipitation, atmospheric pressure, wind speed and direction, relative humidity and hours of sunshine.

Meteorologist

A person who studies the weather and makes forecasts about the weather conditions that might occur in the next few days.

Relative humidity

Relative humidity is the ratio of the amount of water vapour in air to the maximum amount of water vapour that could be present if the vapour were at its saturation conditions.

Precipitation

Precipitation includes all forms of moisture that reach the Earth's surface. The most common forms include rain, drizzle, snow, sleet and hail.

Metropolitan area

A metropolitan area is a large population centre consisting of a large city and its suburbs. It usually combines a built-up area with surrounding zones that might not necessarily be urban in character, but they are closely linked to the centre by employment or commerce.

Central business district (CBD)

The central business district (CBD) is sometimes referred to as 'downtown' and is the commercial centre of a city. It usually has a distinct land use pattern, is located in the geographical centre of the city, and contains the city's main public buildings, major retail outlets and has the greatest concentration and number of pedestrians and traffic. Visually it characterised by the dominance of the tallest buildings in the city.

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Additional resources

¹ http://multimedia.olympic.org/pdf/en_report_805.pdf

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olympic_Flame

³ <http://en.beijing2008.cn/04/51/article214005104.shtml>

⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Everest

⁵ http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/world/city_guides/results.shtml?tt=TT002100

⁶ <http://en.beijing2008.cn/46/67/column211716746.shtml>

⁷ <http://www.travelchinaguide.com/beijing-olympic/venues.htm>

⁷ <http://www.travelchinaguide.com/beijing-olympic/venues.htm>

⁸ <http://www.olympics.com.au/education>