The Olympic Museum exhibition, “Finding the Roots of Sport”, is making its way into the classroom thanks to the work of the Educational and Cultural Services Section of the Olympic Museum. Taking the main themes from the exhibition, namely the origins of sport and the link between sport and culture, a toolkit has been produced for teachers and their pupils to learn how ‘traditional’ sports from the past are relevant in today’s society.

Through interactive games and role playing, students learn how to make the link from the traditional sports to modern and Olympic sports, and gain an understanding of how values such as respect, loyalty, team-work and dignity were born out of the traditional sports to become part of sport as we know it today.

Through using the tool kit, students can have fun gaining knowledge about sport whilst also learning about the rules, responsibilities and sanctions that are associated with sporting activity.

This new product from the Olympic Museum, created in collaboration with the Education and Development Foundation (FED), www.globaleducation.ch, is accompanied by a DVD of the activities organised at the Museum in the summer of 2005. The DVD features demonstrations of traditional sports and information on sporting events such as the Naadam Games in Mongolia, and sports such as kurash in Uzbekistan, wushu in China, capoeira in Brazil, sumo in Japan, Senegalese wrestling and Swiss wrestling. These segments include interviews, photos and video clips.

FOUNDING OF AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME ON THE OLYMPIC VALUES

Thanks to a donation by International Sport Multimedia (ISM), a four-year education programme will be developed by the IOC. This donation will allow the IOC, through the International Cooperation and Development Department and the Olympic Museum, to extend its educational activities.

The objective is to develop an educational programme based on the application of the Olympic values in developing countries and aimed at young people.

To do this, it is essential to act in stages, the first of which consisted in inviting education specialists to develop a concept.

It was for this reason that experts from Switzerland, France, Germany, Greece, Canada and Nigeria met at the Olympic Museum on 29 and 30 November. Some participants first presented an appraisal of Olympic education. Following this, workshops were organised during which discussions were intense and cordial. At the end of the two days, the participants came to an agreement on a first concept and their proposal will be submitted to the IOC President at the beginning of 2006.
Available in subject-based files, the kit provides information on the Olympic Movement and the Games. Made for teachers and their students aged 12 and above, the kit comprises six themes and is available in French, English and German:
- The Olympic Games of Antiquity, 14 pages
- The Modern Olympic Games, 16 pages
- The Olympic Movement, 10 pages
- The Olympic Symbols, 8 pages
- The Olympic Flame and the Relay, 16 pages
- Olympic posters, 14 pages

The texts are illustrated with drawings and each subject concludes with activity suggestions (Educational ideas). A selective bibliography invites users to continue their own research.

This is a very useful tool for addressing Olympism in class and is downloadable from the site www.olympic.org or available for purchase in paper version.

Even without the aid of a tour guide, a visit to the Museum’s permanent exhibition can prove to be very active thanks to the Young Visitor’s Guide, 2nd edition, which has just been published and is available in English, French and German. This 50-page colour guide provides valuable assistance to young people aged 10 to 15 offering information on the Olympic Games, their history and the sports on the programme. This appeals to young visitors by asking questions, the answers to which can be found around them in the Museum, and is an entertaining way to develop curiosity and a sense of observation in youngsters.

Also useful to teachers, the Young Visitor’s Guide can be used at school following the Museum visit. The answers to the questions, as well as additional information, are provided at the end of the Guide and will help teachers educate students about certain aspects of the Games and the Olympic Movement.

To contact the Olympic Review editorial team, please email: olympicreview@olympic.org, fax +41 (0)21 621 6356 or telephone +41 (0)21 621 6111

www.olympic.org

What place does education have at the IOC?
Modern Olympism, as conceived by Pierre de Coubertin, is above all an educational project. Furthermore, this is clearly set out in the Olympic Charter, since the first role of the IOC is defined as: “… to encourage and support the promotion of ethics in sport, as well as the education of youth through sport…” Education is thus clearly a major preoccupation of the IOC President, Jacques Rogge, as well as one of the important axes of commitment of the IOC administration, even if it is perhaps today less visible than that of organising the Olympic Games.

What are the IOC’s principles applied at the Olympic Museum?
The Olympic Museum is the official museum of the IOC. One of its main missions is, therefore, quite naturally, to develop educational programmes targeted at school-age children. For example, the Museum organises the Olympic Week during which youngsters can discover more than 40 sport disciplines; it creates specially adapted activities and visits and produces educational material for teachers or educators. Twenty five to thirty thousand schoolchildren from the whole of Switzerland and nearby France and Italy visit each year.

What are the advantages of having the Olympic Museum to disseminate these values?
Of course, these educational activities ensure that the Museum is visited frequently. However, I think the real advantage is that the IOC has a fantastic laboratory and a centre of competence at the service of the whole Olympic Movement. It can produce, but also compile, evaluate and redistribute…

What are your plans as regards the development of education within the Olympic Museum?
The future for the Museum is to accentuate its role as a laboratory and forum centre at the service of the whole Olympic Movement. Proof of this is the important role that the Museum plays in an educational programme currently underway on the Olympic values and aimed at young people, which, I’m sure, you will hear much about during the year.