

## NEWS BREAK

Article: **'Seal hops' and high-kicks: Alaska teens test their skills at Native Youth Olympics**

Section: **MAIN, A1**

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, April 28, 2024** of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some teachers might use this as a take-home assignment and others might read and answer the questions in a small group or larger, class discussion.

***\*Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for your students.***

### Standards:

#### **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1**

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

#### **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2**

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

### Objectives:

Students will learn about the Native Youth Olympics for Alaskan Native Youth. They will learn about the physical and mental events that take place that tie them to their culture, traditions and ancestors. They will discuss personal traditions or activities in their lives that connect them to their family history and/or cultural heritage. Students will discuss other ways that culture can be preserved and passed down to future generations.

**Pre-Reading Discussion:**



- What do you think the article will be about, using these pictures?
- Are there any clues? What can you infer?

### **Vocabulary Building:**

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using *context clues*? A **context clue** is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

The event builds strength, endurance and teamwork, and **emulates** the traits people of the north needed when they lived a nomadic lifestyle and had to carry heavy loads, organizers said.

### ***Emulates Guess:***

### ***Emulates Definition:***

### **Comprehension Questions:**

1. What is the name of the competition this article describes?
2. Who competes? How many participants does this event attract?
3. What does this event pay tribute to?
4. Events at the competition that wrapped up Saturday include a stick pull and the four-step broad jump. What do both events mimic?
5. Why do today's youth play?
6. What do participants do for the seal hop competition?
7. Why is the wrist carry event also a mental test?

### **Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay Questions:**

### **Class Discussion Questions:**

- What surprised (or stood out to) you in the article?
- At first, I thought \_\_\_\_\_, but now I think \_\_\_\_\_?
- What things did you already know from prior experience?
- These events look physically and mentally challenging! Is there one you think you could do? What is one that you think would be the most difficult? Why?
- Give examples of other activities (sports, games, hobbies) that require both physical and mental strength.

**Nichols said her family and some others still participate in some Native traditions, like hunting and subsisting off the land like their ancestors, but competing in the youth games “makes you feel really connected with them,” she said.**

- Why do you think the Alaskan Native youth that participate feel more connected to culture and their ancestors?

- Are there any traditions or activities in your life that connect you to your family history or cultural heritage?
- What are other ways that cultures can be preserved and passed down to future generations?

**Diving Deeper-Journal & Discussion Prompts:**

***The Native Youth Olympic games are deeply tied to the specific environment of Alaska. How does participating in activities connect people to the places where they live?***

***Think about a place that holds special significance for you. What activities do you do there that deepen your connection to that place?***

News Break is posted to the Web on Tuesday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica for your class, please [register online](#) or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.  
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