

Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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BEIJING 2022 The Science of the Olympics

GOLD MEDAL DICTIONARY

Fall Line: _____

Friction: _____

Drag: _____

The people who compete in the Winter Olympics are more than great athletes. They are also masters of science. Gold Medal athletes know about the science of a **fall line**, **drag** and **friction**.

Find the definition of each of these words on the page. Write the definition in the Gold Medal Dictionary.

Standards Link: Vocabulary Development: Use a dictionary or context clues to find the meaning of words.

Cutting Down on Drag

While we don't always feel air, we are always moving against it. The faster we move, the more we can feel the air rushing past us. Air is actually slowing down our motion. This is called **drag**.



Downhill skiers crouch with their chests to their knees. They try to be very small, so that only a little of their body is in contact with the air. This lessens the drag. Skiers who have the least amount of drag will ski faster.

Drag Racers

Look at the three skiers. They are all skiing down the fall line. The one with the least drag will win. Circle the skier you think will win.

To find out each skier's time, add up the numbers above each skier. The skier with the fastest time wins the gold!

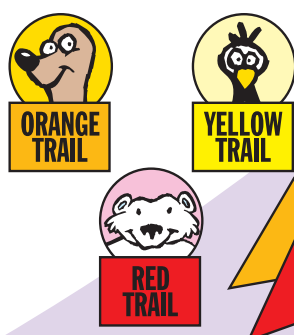
Standards Link: Number Sense: Calculate sums to 30.

Fall Line

Competitors in downhill skiing, the luge and bobsled races look for the **fall line**. The fall line is the quickest way down a hill. When a sled moves away from the fall line, the athlete must steer to correct the path, losing energy and speed.

Add up the numbers following each bobsled track. The animal athlete with the lowest number has found the fall line and wins the gold!

Standards Link: Physical Science: When forces on an object are unbalanced, the object will change its velocity (i.e., it will speed up, slow down or change direction).



What is Friction?

Friction is the rubbing of one object or surface against another.



Place your two palms together with your palms only lightly touching each other. Slide your palms back and forth against each other. There is only a little friction and your hands move easily. Push your palms tightly together and try to move them back and forth. It will be harder to move your palms because there is a lot of friction and that slows the motion.

Now put soap and water on your hands. This will reduce the friction and your hands should move together faster. Athletes wax skis, boards and runners to lower friction and help them go faster.

Standards Link: Science: Identify forces that can act on an object, including friction.

SNOWBOARD CHALLENGE

The athlete who did the best job waxing their board will win this race. (The lowest number is the fastest time.)

11 6 + 5	10 2 + 1	12 3 + 5

Extra! Extra!

Faster, Higher, Stronger

Look through the newspaper to find pictures and words that represent the above words. Make a Spirit of the Olympics poster with your findings.

Standards Link: Visual Arts: Understand and apply media techniques and processes.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Each of these animal athletes won an event on this page. Draw a line from each gold medal to its winner.

Standards Link: Life Science: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

- SCIENCE
- MEDAL
- ATHLETES
- OLYMPICS
- BOBSLED
- SKIER
- SPIRIT
- FRICITION
- DRAG
- FALL
- LINE
- GOLD
- LUGE
- KNEES
- RACERS

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

G	O	F	O	D	T	L	B	U	C
G	K	T	A	I	G	O	L	D	O
A	A	L	R	L	B	L	E	C	S
R	E	I	K	S	L	O	N	C	M
D	P	O	L	Y	M	P	I	C	S
S	R	E	C	A	R	E	L	P	E
E	D	S	E	E	N	K	D	T	G
N	O	I	T	C	I	R	F	A	U
S	E	T	E	L	H	T	A	I	L

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Science Behind the Scenes
The communities that host the Olympic games must respect the environment. Look through the newspaper for ways people protect the environment. Can you find any ideas for protecting the environment during the games?

Standards Link: Earth Science: Know ways in which humans can change ecosystems.

What does an athlete need most to be a great hockey player?



ANSWER: Good ice sight.

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Thankyou Teri Carpenter

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