

Curiosity Corner

Treasures from the FCS Archives

Welcome to **Treasures from the FCS Archives**, a repository of resources for teachers and history enthusiasts! Every month, we are sharing photos, artifacts, documents and other treasures for you to review, discuss and discover. We encourage you to click the links, scan the photos and dig deeper into these treasures, all of which can be found in the Fulton County Schools Archives. Enjoy!

THE CENTENNIAL OLYMPICS IN PINS: A 25 YEAR ANNIVERSARY



The Fulton County Schools Teaching Museum Olympic Pin collection is highlighted in this edition of *Curiosity Corner* alongside photographs from the Museum's Centennial Olympic Exhibit, which was donated to Fulton County Schools by the Atlanta History Center.

In the summer of 1996, more than 10,000 athletes from 197 countries descended upon the city of Atlanta for the 26th modern Olympiad. It was only the fourth time in a hundred years that the summer games had been held in the US, and Atlanta was only the third US city to host them (St. Louis, 1904 and Los Angeles, 1932, 1984). And while athletes from around the world captivated billions of viewers across the globe for two and a half weeks that summer, one of the most popular sports turned out to be something other than track and field, swimming or basketball. It was the age-old pastime of pin collecting.

To participate, one need not be an athlete, or even train for hours upon hours to compete. It is one of the handful of traditions that has lasted since the founding of the modern games in 1896 to the present day. It has provided the space and the means for strangers to come together, trade both stories and hardware, and create memories that endure indefinitely.

This edition of *Curiosity Corner* features the Olympic pin collection from the Fulton County Schools Teaching Museum, which offers a look at the [history of the Olympics](#), how [Atlanta became the unlikely winner](#) to host the [Centennial games](#), and what [the legacy of the Olympics](#) means to Georgians today.

Curiosity in the Classroom: *A Closer Look*

The collecting and trading of Olympic pins was a pastime that many Atlantans enjoyed and shared with their friends and family. The tradition of collecting and trading items of interest has been around for decades. Explore what things people collect and why with your students.

Ask students:

- What types of things might people collect? As a class, brainstorm the many things people collect.
- Do you collect? What do you collect? Why?
- Does someone in your family collect things? If so, what do they collect and why?
- Looking at the list of brainstormed things that people collect, have students discuss why people might collect various things? Are all things collected of monetary value? Are they unique? Intriguing? Historic?
- To further explore collecting, have the group put the items that people collect into different categories, i.e. monetary value, historic value, oddity, used by humans, items from nature, etc.

Many museums were created based on the collections of individuals. Have students research several local museums to determine their origins. A few museums to investigate: The Computer Museum of America, Tellus Science Museum, High Museum of Art, Michael C. Carlos Museum, Robert C. Williams Paper Museum, and the David J. Spencer CDC Museum.

Lesson Ideas & Links: Connecting to Standards

[Elementary School Connections](#)

[Related Primary Sources](#)

[Middle School Connections](#)

[Ask the Teaching Museum](#)

[High School Connections](#)

[Additional Online Resources](#)

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For more information and resources or to connect with staff at the FCS Archives, contact us at archives@fultonschools.org