

Olympic Reflections 2014

The Winter Olympics are over now. There has been a lot of talk in the media about which country was shown to be the strongest at the Games. Three students at our school had a kind of heated discussion. This is how it went.

- Brian thought that the most successful country was the one that won the most medals.
 - Jen disagreed. She explained that not every country sends the same number of athletes to the Olympics and that a better measure would be to figure out which country had the highest ratio of medals per athlete.
 - Gary thought that the sorts of medals that were won needed to be considered also. He suggested that Gold medals count for 3 points, silver medals count for 2 points, and bronze medals count for one point each in order to calculate their various strengths.
1. Which country do you think Brian was thinking of? List the top three countries using Brian's criteria.
 2. Which country do you think Jen was thinking of? List the top three countries using Jen's criteria.
 3. Which countries received the most medal points using Gary's point system? List the top three countries using Gary's criteria.

Which country do **you** think had the most successful 2014 Olympics? How did you decide? Express your answers as a ratio, percent or a fraction.

Extension: Leslie was thinking that we shouldn't care so much about the number of medals brought home. Maybe we should just consider that a country is successful at the Olympics if they just participated. Surely most of the Olympians come home without medals. What are some of the numbers? Calculate the percentages. Talk about the odds per country.