The Olympic Flame’s trip

This year, the winter Olympics will be held in PyeongChang, South Korea. On October 24th, 2017 the Olympic Torch was lit in Olympia, Greece and began its trip to the site of the Opening Ceremonies for this year’s Winter Olympic Games in South Korea on February 9th, 2018.

On October 23rd, an actress, dressed as an ancient priestess, used a parabolic mirror to focus the Sun’s rays to a point hot enough to light the Olympic flame. She represented Hera, Zeus’s wife, and was supposedly stealing the power of Zeus by stealing his fire.

From Greece the torch made an airplane trip to Incheon, South Korea where it began its 2,018-kilometer trip (2018, get it?) through South Korea.

By the Opening ceremony the torch will have been carried by 7,500 people and at least 3 robots. This number of participants represents the 75,000,000 people who reside on the Korean Peninsula.

The theme of this Olympics is "Let everyone shine." Insooni, a popular Korean singer, premiered the theme song of the Olympics in late July. We have her terrific performance on our YummyMath website.

The torch trip is incredible and the chosen torch bearers and destinations are well thought out and meaningful.

The Torch carriers are "Achievers" and "Dreamers".

- Achievers are defined as people that have opened new horizons and continue to go above and beyond.
- Dreamers are defined as people who have pursued their dreams to open new horizons.

The torch will travel by air, by Turtle ship, by sailboat, cable car, steam train, yacht and zip line.

1. Considering the song, the theme, the chosen runners, the thousands of carriers in this Torch event, and the people who were chosen to carry the flame, what intentions do you think that the South Korean Olympics Committee wanted to convey?

Photo credit: The Telegraph, UK
The total torch run will be 2,018 kilometers. 7,500 people have been tapped to participate in the Torch trip.

2. On average, how much territory will each participant cover?

3. Is that a distance you would have expected for an Olympic torchbearer to cover? Why or why not?

The torch is 700 millimeters tall. This height reflects the altitude of PyeongChang which is 700 meters above sea level. The torch’s trip is intended to showcase the Korean landscapes, the strength of Korean technology, and Korean culture.

The torch was designed by KIM Young-se and manufactured by the Hanwha Company in South Korea. It is designed to burn for at least 15 minutes even in temperatures as cold as -35°C and in winds as great as 35 meter/sec.

4. I am having a little trouble picturing the size and capability of this torch since its descriptions are metric. Describe the torches dimensions in United States customary units of feet, wind speed in miles, and temperature resistance in Fahrenheit.

5. Which part of the Olympic Torches trip or South Korea would you most like to witness or visit? Please explain.

Sources:

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