The Art of Fencing



DESIGNS, MOVEMENT and MEDALS

Sharon Parsons

Nelson Literacy Directions

Contents

THE ART of Fencing





1 The History of Fencing

Find out why France is so important in fencing history.

page 4

2 The Art of Fencing

Fencing involves design, movement, technology and lots of drama.

page 6

3 Fencing Weapons and Equipment

See the differences between an épée, a foil and a sabre.

page 8

4 Fencing Bouts

How to score and how to win in fencing.

page 10





5 Fencing for Kids

Kids learn fencing skills and rules in games and activities.

Page 16 TEXT TYPE Response

page 12

History Feature

Fencing at the Olympic Games

Fencing was one of the first Olympic sports.

page 17



6 Fencing in New York

Fencing students in New York learn from a fencing master.

page 18

7 An NLD News Review

Erinn and Keeth Smart win fencing medals at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. Read their emails to the author.

page 21

Index and Glossary page 24

Teacher's Instruction

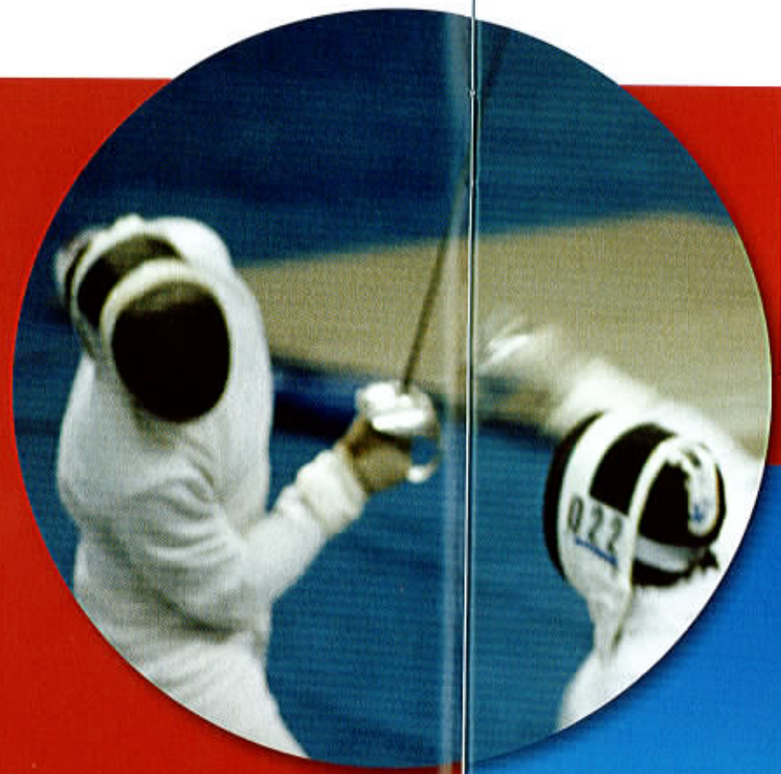
1 The History of Fencing

From **Italy** to **France**



Think of knights in battle! Think of men fencing in duels! That happened hundreds of years ago when fencing was a form of attack and defence.

Today, fencing isn't like that unless you're acting as a musketeer in a play! It is a sport played and enjoyed by many people all around the world.





the flag of France

For teachers' inspection Only

Fencing Secrets

In the days of fencing duels, teachers told their fencers to keep their lessons secret. Fencing secrets gave them an advantage over their opponents.

Today, fencing teachers like to keep their lessons secret, too. They want their students to win fencing competitions so ... sshhh ... keep those fencing secrets ... secret!



a fencing bout

Fencing in France

Over 500 years ago, the queen of France asked Italian fencers to teach fencing in France. Then the French invented better weapons and equipment to make fencing a safer sport. Their rules are now used at fencing clubs and in competitions.



2 The Art of Fencing

From **Design** to **Drama**

At school, you study arts subjects such as art and design, movement, drama and technology.

The sport of fencing is an art too. It involves:

- design of weapons and equipment
- movement that is fast and planned
- technology
- and … lots of drama!

Design in Fencing

Fencing equipment and weapons are designed to fit the person and to suit the style of fencing.

Chapter 3 explains more about design.

Technology in Fencing

In fencing competitions, electronic technology helps the judges to score points accurately.

Chapter 4 explains scoring technology.

Drama in Fencing

For young students, fencing teachers use drama or plays to teach fencing.

The students can pretend to be pirates or musketeers!

Chapter 5 shows how kids can learn fencing.

Q&A

Q: WHAT COLOUR ARE FENCING UNIFORMS?

A: Fencing uniforms are usually white – instructors can wear black.

Q: WHAT DO HIGH-LEVEL FENCERS WEAR?

A: They usually wear a heavier jacket than other fencers. It is made with plastic foam to give the fencer extra protection.

Fencing in **Novels** and Movies

Many novels that include fencing have been made into movies. For movies, a director will work with the actors on how to fence dramatically. In some movies, actors make big, swashbuckling movements to create more drama.

Page 15 has a reference to a famous novel about fencing that has been made into many movies.

Movement in Fencing

Fencers must get into a rhythm. They work out the best positions to move to so that they can outsmart their opponents and win points. They need to be fit so that they can move with speed and skill.

Chapter 4 explains more about movement.

For teachers' Inspection Only