

Teacher's Guide for FACES

November/December 2011: Can Soccer Unite the World?

Teacher's Guide Prepared by Heather Bode

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Previewing the Issue

Give students time to look at pictures/illustrations/captions throughout the issue. Also draw students' attention to the title of the issue. Pose the question: How could a game possibly unite the world? Take a vote on whether they believe that to be possible. Display results.

High Five

List the most popular sports in America. Did soccer make the list?

Note that soccer is referred to as football in many countries. How can soccer be a universal language if we don't even call it by the same name?

Why might soccer be more popular, outside the U.S., than the American version of football?

Hint: Think of poor and underdeveloped countries.

At a Glance

Writing: Write a short paragraph persuading your coach why you would be suitable for a certain position. List facts that make you the best candidate for the job.

English: Draw a soccer field on your whiteboard. Write adjectives on index cards describing characteristics of each position. Hand out the cards. Have students stick the index cards to the correct positions on the board.

Soccer for Animals

Language Arts: Have students write 3 similes and 3 metaphors comparing the animals to their soccer positions.

Imagine that a soccer team made up of animals competes against a human team. One person begins and says, for example, "We were doing so well! Gibbon had blocked three shots, the dolphins were really passing well, cheetah got the ball, BUT UNFORTUNATELY," Then the next student picks up the story line: "Cheetah ran right out of the stadium!" The story moves to each new person when the words "but unfortunately" are used.

Art: Draw yourself with the body of one of the 3 animals mentioned. Explain why you chose that animal.

The World's Game

Math: Create a bar graph showing the number of viewers of the four major sports events. What conclusions can be drawn from it?

Reading for Information:

Read each fact. Find details from the article to support each fact.

1. America's interest in soccer is on the rise.
2. Soccer is popular world-wide.

Two Thousand Years of Soccer

Construct a timeline of important events in soccer history. Can you think of any other historical events that might have been happening at the same time? Add those events to the timeline.

Soccer Anyone?

Geography: Use a world map to trace the spread of soccer. Make arrows to show how it left or came to a country.

Use a black line world map to color in member countries of the world. Find member countries at www.fifa.com. Scroll to the bottom of the page. Click on "confederations" and click on a specific confederation to see individual countries.

Debate: Sports associations, like FIFA or the NFL, constantly review rules of the game. Sometimes rules are changed, mainly as a safety consideration for players. In the 1800's, there was a great debate over the use of hands in soccer. Should the rules be changed?

Chemistry: Watch this Surprising Science Video, "Is the World Cup Hollow?" at <http://blogs.smithsonianmag.com/science/2010/06/is-the-world-cup-hollow/>.

What conclusions can be drawn after viewing the video?

Math: Solve this: How much is the World Cup trophy worth? The World Cup trophy weighs 5 kg. One kg=2.2 pounds. The current price of gold can be found at <http://goldprice.org/gold-price.html>. Remember: gold prices are per ounce.

Hooliganism

Analyze the behavior of the Hooligans. What would drive them to such destructive behavior? How do the actions of a few affect many people?

Make a cartoon illustrating an interaction between yourself and a Hooligan. What would you say if you ran into a group of Hooligans? How would you handle the situation?

Playing for Peace

Consider: Why do we think about Peace more at this time of year?

Art: Design a poster that relates the Holiday Season/Peace/Five Values of Football 4 Peace.

Physical Ed: Try the trust game, Butt Stop, explained in Fast Facts.

Reading for Information/Understanding:

Who founded F4P?

What brought these 3 men together?

What is F4P's main goal?

How do they accomplish this?

Explain the meaning of the 5 values.

Where has F4P been?

Where is it going?

When will their work be done?

Getting a Kick Out of German

Pretend you are a TV announcer broadcasting games at the Transatlantic Soccer Bridge. Write a script and plan interviews that cover the background of the competition, its goals, what it's like to compete, and wrap it up with a great conclusion.

Soccer...For Robots

Calling all LEGO builders: Use LEGOs to recreate a soccer field and teams.

Reading for Understanding:

How do robots help promote science and technology?

The goal of the competition is to have robots compete, and win, against the World Cup champions by mid-century by 2500. That is a long-term goal. What short term goals need to be met in order to attain the long-term goal?

Do you feel this is possible?

How are science and technology bringing people of the world together through sports?

What could be positive side effects of this competition?

Think of additional ways robots could be used to help society. Would there be any downfalls?

Do you think the goal will be reached? Why?

Finding Common Ground on the Soccer Field

Drama: The organization, Search for Common Ground, is working for peace using TV drama. Since it's in 17 countries, each one produces a local version. Assume your school was selected to produce an episode of *The Team*. What conflicts are unique to your school/community? Break the class into writers, actors, film crew, and directors. Produce your episode and present it to the school.

Quotable Quotes: Find quotes by John Marks that answer the following questions:

- Why is there a need for an organization like Search for a Common Ground?
- What is the goal of Search for a Common Ground?
- Why would they make soccer the focus?

Dear Tommy

Visual Organizing: Danny has played soccer in several countries. He mentions South Africa, Spain, and Italy. Make a Venn Diagram with circles for each country. Compare and contrast what Danny noticed about each place.

In the Cards

Art and Writing: Communicating with color- Choose a color that best represents you. Write why you chose the color and what it means to you. Design a border using only that color.

Classroom Management: Make your own yellow and red card. Use them throughout the day as cues to students about their behavior.

Growing Up Playing Soccer

Writing: Adam Sherring wrote a basic five paragraph essay. Discuss the parts of his article.

Introduction

Body paragraph 1: his position and why he likes it

Body paragraph 2: trip to Costa Rica

Body paragraph 3: continuing his soccer education

Conclusion

What did students like/dislike about the introduction? Make suggestions for possible changes. Pick out the main ideas and details of the body paragraphs. Analyze the conclusion. Did he use the ending as a suitable wrap-up?

*Practice forming your own 5 paragraph essay. A web is a good way to start. Form a thesis statement from your topic. Then assign a main idea to your body paragraphs before working on details. Think about how you could conclude your essay.

A Soccer Field of Dreams

The movie, *Field of Dreams*, debuted in 1989. Students might be familiar with the saying, "If you build it, they will come," made famous in this film.

Reading for Understanding:

Why would the author choose such a title?

What is Awista Ayub's dream?

What did she *build*?

Did the girls come?

Why would there have been opposition to female athletes in Afghanistan?

What life lessons do athletes, male or female, take away from learning and competing in sports?

Think of a personal experience where you learned a lesson and then applied it to your life outside of sports.

A Universal Language: Futbol 4 Dreams

The closing quote by Nicolette is very powerful:

"It's not our differences that make us stronger, but working with our similarities."

Even within your own classroom, or school, there are children from extremely different backgrounds. But it is important to focus on similarities to accomplish a goal. Play a "getting to know you" game. Have each person write 5 interesting facts about themselves, then partner them with someone they don't know very well. Share the 5 facts with the partner and look for similarities. If nothing is similar, have them keep talking until they find something they have in common.

Discuss: Do you think people are drawn to people they *perceive* to be similar to themselves based on outward appearance? Why? What are the ramifications of finding friends/ meeting new people?

Cooperative Project: Assign partners to make a soccer ball out of household materials.

Street Soccer

DeAndre Harrison talks about what it was like to be involved in Soccer in the Streets. He shares the story of how he got kicked out and then was allowed back into the program.

Discuss the importance of rules.

Do you feel DeAndre was treated fairly?

Do you feel the coach overreacted?

What do you think made DeAndre come back?

What role does humbleness play in this story?

How did DeAndre's own experience help him as a coach?

Social Interaction: Write a series of IF THEN statements for students to complete: IF I disobey my coach, THEN...

IF I don't complete my homework, THEN...

IF I never introduce myself to my neighbor, THEN...

IF I complete my homework early, THEN...

IF I accidentally hurt someone's feeling, THEN...

Many feel that people need to speak the same language in order to communicate. How did DeAndre communicate with fellow players when he traveled overseas? What role of technology? Can you think of other ways technology might help retain these new friendships?

The King Pele

Pele lived in extreme poverty, and yet, he was able to become Brazil's national treasure. What message does that send about equal opportunity for all children?

What efforts are being made at your school to make sure all students have opportunities to succeed in school and in life?

Make a flow chart that exhibits Pele's life. Begin with his birth. End with his public speaking about poverty and helping the less fortunate.

Wrap-up

Look at the original vote results from the "previewing the issue" section. Take another vote and compare results. Did anyone change their vote? Why?

Use a soccer ball: Toss the ball from classmate to classmate and have each one write what they learned on a section of the ball. If you borrowed the ball, then students could just say what they learned.

Writing a Biography

Short biographies on the following famous soccer players are in the issue. Some students may want to find out more. Encourage them to research a player and find quotes from the player that give students a sense of what these famous players feel is important.

- David Beckham
- Mia Hamm
- Ronaldo
- Lionel Messi
- Kaka